19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Government has announced that all schools must close from this Friday, March 20th, until further notice to help stop the spread of Coronavirus. However, we are facing a number of logistical and staffing issues which now make it impossible to keep school open for all year groups tomorrow. **We have, therefore, decided to close the school for Year 11 from Thursday 19th March 2020**

As part of its announcement about schools, the Government also said that:

- Exams will not take place in May and June
- Schools will be open to help support the children of key workers and for vulnerable students
- Provision for food will be made for students who qualify for Free School Meals

We expect further details on how we can implement these measures in the coming days and will liaise closely with the Department for Education to ensure that we support our key worker parents and vulnerable students in the best way we can.

Our other key aim is to ensure and maintain as much stability for the students’ education as possible and we have been planning for this outcome. Whilst it is not possible to fully replicate the educational experience at home, we have been working hard to put in place contingency plans to ensure students can still access their learning and teachers are able to support them with it. Learning will be set and shared through the INA website. There is a link to it on the front page of the website:
Some secondary subjects will use web-based platforms such as Edmodo, Google Classroom and MyMaths that enable teachers to review students’ completion of the learning. This will be made clear in the subject One Pagers which provide an outline of the learning and resources for each lesson. We have provided a Guide for Parents on how to support their child’s learning, also available on the website.

While schools are closed, we should all continue to follow health guidance.

Find out how to protect yourself here: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

For further information on the government response, please visit: https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Please also see the Parent Leaflet ‘How to Stay Healthy at Home’ available on the school website. We will continue to update you on any developments via email/text and with regular updates on the school website.

This is an unsettling and disruptive time for everyone and we will work together as a school and local community to face the challenging times ahead. Thank you for your support and understanding during these exceptional circumstances. If we can do anything more to help your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Jo Spencer
Interim Principal
Isaac Newton Academy