



Dear Parents and Guardians

Friday 20th March 2020

I am sure that you are all aware by now that all schools will close to the majority of pupils later today until further notice. For the last two days, we were forced to partially close the school as staff absence became more and more of an issue. The guidelines the government have issued on self-isolation were always going to cause issues. However, we have to do whatever we can to fight the Coronavirus that is causing so much havoc across the globe. We are truly living in historic times. Worrying times also. We all have loved ones we are worried about and the impact of this disease on them. All we can do is look after them, ourselves and each other. We will continue to use our website <https://www.halewoodacademy.co.uk> and our social media accounts as the official method of communication in the coming weeks. These are;

Facebook – Halewood Academy / Twitter - @HalewoodAcademy / Instagram - halewood_academy

From Monday, only students whose parents are Key Workers and vulnerable students will be allowed to attend school. This is all part of an effort to support the local and wider community who depend on the work of all those Key Workers. As a result, those people depend on the brilliant staff at Halewood Academy. We do not know how long this arrangement will last for and exactly what it will look like but we will do our best. Students who are at home can continue to learn from home. All students can find work by using the link which is available on our school website in the News section (look for the Coronavirus Update). Work will be provided in all subjects over time. We ask all parents to urge your child to engage, if possible, with the following online platforms – Hegarty Maths, Seneca Learning, Educake and BBC Bitesize. These are accessible on any device connected to the internet.

Tomorrow will be the day that Megan Hurley would have celebrated her 18th birthday. I know all her friends are thinking of her and of her family right now. For Jo, Mike and Bradley this is always a difficult time. However, I know they take great comfort from the simple things like seeing our students wearing an orange ribbon or the Megan pin. Today, there is a lot of orange in school as we remember Megan. It has become a Halewood tradition and is one that I am sure will go on for many years yet. Today, we took delivery of two tables in our memorial garden—they are beautiful. Many of us were looking forward to remembering Megan at a special event tomorrow evening. Sadly, due to the current situation that has been postponed. We will, I am sure, all do something tomorrow to remember Megan.



It is a sad consequence of the school closure that students will not be able to say a long goodbye to one of the most popular teachers at Halewood who is leaving us at Easter. Mr Mackenzie is a Halewood legend having been a brilliant teacher here for over ten years. The English department will be devastated to see him go. He has been a superb role model with his charity fundraising over the years. He will be missed, that is for sure. I would like to thank him for all his hard work and dedication to the students of Halewood. I wish him the best of luck at his new school in Liverpool.

One other sad consequence of the closure is that very suddenly, Year 11 students are faced with today possibly being their last day of school. With such short notice, it has been hard to help them prepare for this. My daughter, also in Year 11, is devastated that the 'end' of school has arrived so early. We are determined to try to get Year 11 together again and are still hoping to be able to hold Prom 2020 at some stage. I want to finish this week's newsletter with these words for all students in Year 11.

"Dear Year 11, I can't imagine how it feels for you today. To have your final weeks in school taken away would probably have been, for some of you, a bonus at one stage. However, all of you look shell-shocked today. I feel the same. Yesterday, when I spoke to you in assembly in tears, that was real emotion you saw. I have lived and breathed your time at Halewood and it's too soon to say goodbye. I love this year group because it has so many brilliant minds, great characters and strong leaders and I really will miss you all. I know the news that you won't be given the chance to take your GCSEs in the summer is a massive blow. You may even say that means it has all been a waste of time. I can assure you, it definitely hasn't. In almost five years you have shone. You have given me, so many staff and, most importantly, each other memories that will last forever. You have worked hard, so hard. You have become the young men and women that you are, ready for the next stage of your lives. Bright, successful lives. You have set an example of what Halewood youngsters should aspire to be. You may be denied the chance to put pen to paper in an exam hall but all the things you have done at Halewood will have prepared you more for your future than any exam could. Taking and passing exams is not what defines you. The way you are, the way you care and the way you live your lives, that is what defines you and in the time you have spent at Halewood Academy, you have been the best you can be. I am proud to be your Headteacher, proud to have worked with you and for you. You will always be part of the history of this school and I hope Halewood will always be a part of you. Please don't be a stranger. I wish you all the best of luck for your futures. Go and do your best to make a difference in life, because I know you can.

Best wishes, look after yourselves and each other."

Mr Evans