

20 March 2020

Dear students, staff and parents,

School closure in light of the Covid-19 situation

In these unprecedented circumstances, I wanted to write to you all about the situation in which the School finds itself. I hope that you will find some of this letter helpful, even if it does not answer all of the questions which we are all currently asking.

First of all, I would like to pay tribute to the School for everything it has done in the past couple of weeks. Mr Atkinson and his amazing team of staff have been put in the unenviable position of trying to keep the School running in the face of increasing student and staff illness and absence, and an enormous amount of uncertainty. They have done a tremendous job, and I would like to thank them, on behalf of the whole community, for their commitment, tenacity and professionalism in such difficult circumstances.

We expect the question of public examinations to become clearer over the next few days. However, the cancellation of examinations will, I am sure, have hit Year 11 and 13 students very hard. Please be assured that the School will do all it can to ensure that its students receive the qualifications that they deserve. The School will respond to the situation as the government reveals its plans in this regard. If you are a Year 11 or 13 student, you may have attended your final lessons at Beaumont this week, but you remain part of the Beaumont community, and we continue to value each and every one of you, and will try to help you to the outcomes that you deserve, in so far as we possibly can.

We currently have no way of knowing for how long the School will be closed. It may be that (other than maintaining a skeleton staff to supervise the children of key workers) the School will not re-open for many months. That does not mean, however, that schooling ceases. Information has been sent out about how teaching and learning will continue online, and I would ask that everyone does their best to ensure that students can continue to learn, even though the majority may not be physically attending school.

Six years ago this week, the School received the Ofsted judgment that it is outstanding in all respects. It continues to be just that, and it is our deep-rooted sense of community that really brings us all together and allows our students to achieve so much. Our community has been through difficult times in the past, and we will no doubt go through difficult times in the future, but I am sure that we will always pull through. Beaumont School is a very special place and I am sure the School, and our community, will continue to flourish in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Hall
Chair of Governors
Beaumont School