

## FULL SCHOOL CLOSURE – NENE EDUCATION TRUST SCHOOLS

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the announcement made by the government yesterday, I am writing to you with an update on the current situation.

There is no precedent, within our lifetimes, for the decisions that the government is having to make. In this time of national emergency, I hope you will feel able to support the decisions that the government is taking in relation to schools, and our response.

As a result of the announcement yesterday, **we are closing to students at the end of the school day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**. This is until further notice for all children **with the exception of those whose parents are key workers and for those children that are most vulnerable**. The government will publish the list of key workers this morning.

We will, therefore, be open only for the children of key workers and those that are most vulnerable. A list of key workers will be published tomorrow. Vulnerable children include those that have EHCPs and those that have social workers.

**It is crucial that you support us in helping us to plan next steps for our young people. We need to gather as much information as we can and in a short space of time – therefore we are asking that you complete this survey 9.00am Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March please.**

<http://bit.ly/NETparentkeyworker>

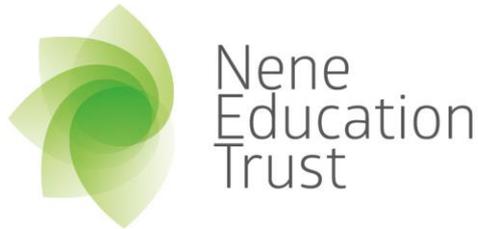
Arrangements for those children of key workers or those children deemed vulnerable will be communicated to you very soon.

You will have heard that there will be no public examinations this year in Year 2, Year 6, Year 11 or Year 13. We fully understand that our students and their parents will be very worried and anxious and will have many questions following the announcement. We await further information from the Department for Education and will share this as soon as it is provided. Staff will be available during the coming weeks to provide all the support we possibly can. We will talk to students who are impacted tomorrow morning, providing them with immediate support.

We urge all students to understand that continuing to study from home during our closure places them in the best possible position to continue their studies when we get back to school, and will

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ensure their continuing education provides them with the best possible opportunities for their future. Teachers and support staff in our school have already prepared resources and made other preparations for students to learn at home which will have been communicated via individual schools and further instructions will follow.

For those families whose children are entitled to free school meals, there will be arrangements for meals to be collected from Manor School and Newton Road. A separate letter will be sent to those that this applies to.

I understand that this is a turbulent time and I know that our children may be anxious or upset. I also know that some parents may not agree with the decisions that the government is making. I ask that you trust that we are making the very best decisions we can in the face of a national emergency and in the best interests of our own school community.

I want to reassure you that at this challenging time, we will continue to update you and keep you informed. However, if you have specific serious concerns at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you have any questions or concerns, please in the first instance speak to your child's school via Kerry Mills on 01933 353761 or [kmills@newtonroadschool.co.uk](mailto:kmills@newtonroadschool.co.uk). Alternatively contact Matt Coleman, Director of Primary Education, on [matt.coleman@neneeducationtrust.org.uk](mailto:matt.coleman@neneeducationtrust.org.uk)

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead Kerry Mills at Newton Road School on [kmills@newtonroadschool.co.uk](mailto:kmills@newtonroadschool.co.uk). You can also raise concerns with The Northamptonshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The MASH will listen to your concerns and they will decide on the next steps. Information can be taken anonymously.

Telephone: 0300 126 1000

Email (secure address): [MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk)

Newton Road School have also sent this information earlier in the week with how to contact the school.

As difficult as this situation is, for the good of society I urge you to follow government guidance over the coming weeks. This includes not leaving young children unsupervised and not leaving children in the care of people over the age of 70.

Again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

I very much hope that you are all able to keep safe and healthy.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Hill  
CEO  
Nene Education Trust

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