

19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

No doubt you are already aware that schools across the UK are closing tomorrow, Friday 20th March, and will be closed indefinitely. I would like to inform you that Millom School will close for pupils from 1pm and I apologise for the late notice. The early closure is necessary due to the number of staff who are now absent and to support staff in preparing to work from home over the coming weeks. Students who take the bus home will leave the site on their bus at 1.10pm.

I would like to thank staff for their hard work and dedication in supporting each other and the students, particularly over the last few weeks. This has meant that we have been able to stay fully open whilst schools in other areas have begun to close. Staff have also worked hard to support students in beginning to come to terms with the changes to our lives that are happening as this situation develops.

Staff have been preparing work for students to complete whilst the school is closed and students have been informed about this by their teachers. A list of the ways in which students can access this work in each subject will be made available on the school website. It is important that students continue to learn whilst the school is closed and I recommend that students follow a routine of learning based on their normal school timetable.

I spoke to Year 11 and 13 this morning in assembly and informed them that GCSE and A Level exams will not take place this summer. This announcement was met with a mix of emotions from the students. I do feel for them as their years of hard work and preparation for these exams has ended suddenly. The government have said that they will work to ensure that students get the qualifications they need. We do not yet know how this will be done but will inform you when we have further details. It is important therefore that Year 11 and 13 students continue to study so that their learning does not suffer and complete coursework as this may be used as evidence for grades.

We are making provision for students who are entitled to free school meals by sending home TESCO vouchers. Support and pastoral staff will be in regular contact by telephone with students who normally have additional support from them.

The reason that schools have closed across the country is to ensure that the policy of social distancing is followed by all of us. The guidance from the government about what to do now and over the coming weeks can be found at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and follow the link to the "Coronavirus (Covid-19): UK government response".

I would like to wish you and your families well, look after each other and I look forward to the time when life returns to normal and we re-open the school.

Yours faithfully



M D Savidge  
Headteacher