

From: Andrew Fleck
Principal



CASTERTON
SEDBERGH PREPARATORY
SCHOOL

Thursday 12th March 2020

Dear Parents

Casterton, Sedbergh Prep School: Preparation for temporary Enforced Closure

We anticipate the Government will enact the Delay phase of its response to the Coronavirus Covid-19 very soon. An important element of this is to diminish interaction and one possible measure is the enforced closure of Schools.

In this eventuality, it is not entirely clear whether Boarding Schools will be required to close, and our first action would be to seek clarity through the Boarding Schools' Association. We will prioritise the health of our pupils and community but will seek to maintain normal education for as long as possible.

This is NOT a notice that Casterton, Sedbergh Prep School will close.

This communication describes how the Prep School would manage an enforced closure. The School would not immediately send pupils away from School and would implement a controlled closure programme such that pupils are safe, the impact on families is minimised and pupils are prepared for remote studies in order to maintain their education.

Parents will be sent a separate guide on how to initially support their children at home, which pupils already have in their own planners. Our remote learning plans must vary in age according to the child. Children in Lower School will, inevitably, require greater support but pupils in Years 4 to 8 have all received training at School.

Families of boarders should contact the Housemaster and Housemistress to arrange collection. We anticipate this would be across a weekend and it would help our organisation if it were an extended period. If closure is announced, please do not feel that you must come at the earliest opportunity, the arrangements may be at the convenience of the family.

If a family is unable to collect their child(ren), the School will remain open until the normal end of term. Children will be fully cared for in the Boarding Houses and will be helped to study independently in the same way as if they were at home. We will operate an appropriate programme of sports and activities; we will not organise any off-site visits and as far as possible pupils will not interact with anyone from outside the School. All communication about closure and collection should be directed through either Form Tutors (day pupils) or the Housemaster and Housemistress (boarders).

Once we know about any timings of closure, we will let you know when remote teaching and learning will commence and will continue to communicate about the process of ongoing education, public examination and re-opening schedules.

School closure does not automatically mean that events such as the Easter Sports Tour or the Choir Tour will be cancelled but for means of planning it would be wise to consider that eventuality. The staff responsible for these events will advise you about them directly.

With best wishes

Andrew Fleck
Principal

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