

Dear Parents and Carers

Letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Ironstone Academy Trust

The events of recent days have been challenging for your family and their school; thank you for your patience and understanding.

The decision to close our schools to some pupils is not taken lightly. Our Head teachers have worked with me to ensure this very difficult decision is taken based on the right advice; you will recognise that this decision has been taken for very important reasons. The impact of a school closure will be felt in our communities, and we are taking action to go some way, however limited, to mitigate against some of the negative consequences of doing so.

Each school will provide valuable learning support materials for your family to use. These will be developed over time. We are also looking to put in place arrangements to keep in touch with some of our more vulnerable pupils, to reassure and support them. We have liaised with the Local Authority with regards to providing meals for pupils, and these arrangements will be confirmed directly with you.

I know schools have also shared some resources regarding the Covid19 virus with you already. Your reassurance will help support your child's wellbeing at this time.

For now, and as a parent myself, I would suggest you work towards establishing a positive routine with your child as best you can, with time to talk, to play and to read and work included alongside other activities such as watching television and gaming. Listening to rolling news updates on the story is debilitating and ill-advised for children. There is already much in place that has been planned by my Headteacher & Head of School colleagues. Please be assured that this remains a priority for us.

You can stay in 'the loop' by using school social media channels for updates over the next few weeks. School admin emails will be fully monitored up until April 3rd and we have put in place arrangements for the Head Teacher Board of the trust to meet as much as we need to using video conferencing. We will keep informed as a team on any issues you might be facing within any of our school communities.

I am very proud of the way our leadership teams & their staff have handled recent events in school. The extra diligence shown by our cleaners and caretakers, the administration staff taking time to reassure and guide families, and the teachers and teaching assistants striving to maintain learning and happiness in our schools has been remarkable.

Our pupils have been our inspiration. I thank them for their kindness and thoughtfulness.

Carl Faulkner
Chief Executive
Ironstone Academy Trust