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Dear Parents and carers

I am writing with further details about the school closure. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with us at any point. We have placed a great deal of information on the school website including:

- Links and how to access all of the required websites
- Contact details for each subject area
- Details of work to be completed

Home Learning

I have spoken with all of the year 11 students this morning to update them with the information I was aware of at the time. We discussed what might happen and I gave them my assurances that we would be doing our absolute best to ensure that they receive the grades that they deserve this summer.

At the moment we know that they will not be sitting their exams during this academic year, therefore I feel it is prudent not to be setting home learning just at this time. They have been working with such intensity in recent months that pausing over the Easter holidays will give them some time to focus on their own well-being and to digest what has happened over recent weeks.

I have told them that we will be setting appropriate work for them once we know the situation with the examinations. I am thinking that we can give them a real headstart for many of the courses they will be beginning in September.

I do not want to set them work, just for the sake of it right now. They should enjoy a break and we will refocus after Easter.

I am hopeful that we will be in a better position to inform the students by the end of tomorrow as the Education Secretary has just released the following statement:

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said the Government will be issuing guidance on Friday as to how pupils unable to sit their GCSEs and A-levels because of the school closures will be awarded their grades. He said there will be a "proper and fair system" of appeal for those who are unhappy with the results they are given. "We will be doing everything we can do to make sure they get their results in August as they will be hoping to, but we can't predict as to how they are going to unfold" he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. "It is absolutely vital for me for those children who have put so much work into all their learning over these years working up to their GCSE's and A-levels to get their results, but also making sure that we have a proper and fair system if they dispute that, if they are not content with it, there is some mechanism for them to have redress".

We have some events to celebrate what might be their last day tomorrow - I know not all of the students will be able to attend as some are self-isolating, but I am sure you will understand why we should try and do something now.

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns the safeguarding team will still be accessible to parents, staff and students at CP@TQacademy.co.uk.

If you have any urgent safeguarding or child protection concerns you can contact the Torbay MASH directly on 01803 208100. If you have an immediate concern for the safety or welfare of a child please call 999 or report any non-emergency concerns to the police via 101.

Free School Meals

We have also made provisions to support families who are entitled to free school meals as I am aware that the school closure will bring unanticipated additional costs. I will write to those families separately to outline our food parcel scheme. We are in times of greater financial uncertainty, so if you have concerns about providing these additional meals please make contact with the school either by telephone on 01803 329351 or admin@TQacademy.co.uk

EHCP Students

Mrs Jukes has called the parents of every child with an EHCP to discuss the arrangements for them to come into school and be supported with their learning.

Children of Key Workers

The Government are yet to issue the guidance on who will be considered a keyworker, it is anticipated this will be announced shortly. I will write to you as soon as I have more details. The take up of this provision will be on a voluntary basis.

Vulnerable Children

The Government are yet to issue the guidance on children considered to be vulnerable. My working assumption at this stage is that the provision will be mandated for school aged children (children must attend), however, this has not been confirmed. At the moment we will be expecting all of our child who are looked after, on a Child Protection Plan or a Child in Need Plan to be in school next week. We will be making contact with the carers and parents of these students on Friday.

If you have any questions related to any of the above please do not hesitate to contact Year11Staff@tqacademy.co.uk and Mr Grinsill, Mrs Lancaster, Mr Christophers or Mr Pugh will get back to you.

We are trying to our very best in what is a situation that is quite unprecedented. We are all feeling anxious about what lies ahead of us; I know that by working closely we will be far more successful. Please bear with us as we adapt to a new way of working and supporting your children.

My very best wishes to you and your families, please ask if there is anything we can do.

Yours sincerely



Steve Margetts
Principal