



March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you so much for the support we have received since the government announcement regarding school closure. This is a difficult time for everyone and we know the news will have come as a surprise for many and is causing concern.

You may be aware that the government have now issued further guidance around the definition of keyworkers. However, we would like to stress that the government have also said:

“The principle is that if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The Government is asking parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible – schools will remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.”

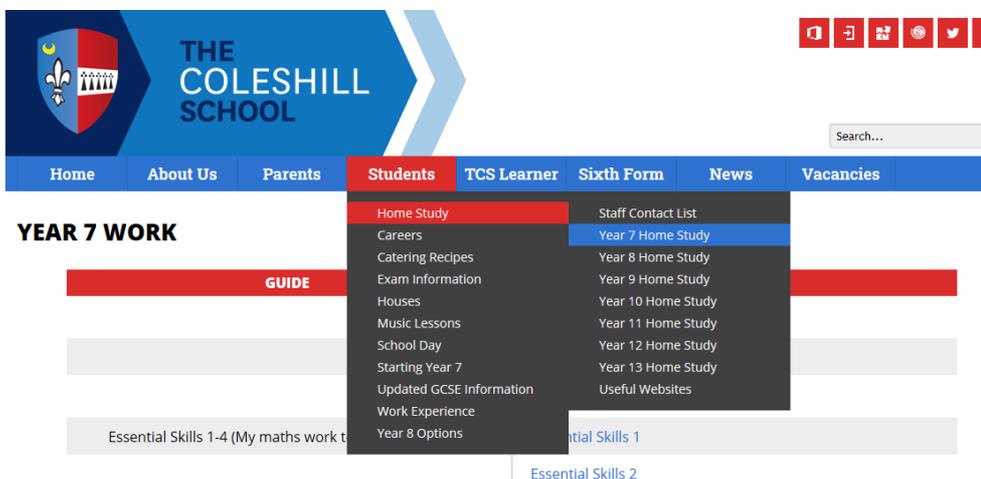
“If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be as the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.”

Given other measures announced by the government regarding self-isolation for people with underlying health issues, we are operating on reduced staffing levels. We will always do what we can but we urge parents to adhere to the guidance above to help us in supporting parents, carers and pupils who need this the most and to limit the risk of infection. We urge you, please, to consider this very carefully as we will have to close our doors fully if we cannot guarantee the safety of children.

Therefore, if your child is attending school, they will be expected to arrive for 8:45am and leave at 3:10pm. They will be in full school uniform with appropriate equipment ready for learning, which will include a PE kit on Wednesday and Friday. They should bring a packed lunch, although there will be limited cold food on offer to buy. Children eligible for FSM will of course be entitled to a free cold meal. The buses should be running as normal, but we would advise parents and carers to check this for themselves. If your child is not attending school and is entitled to a free school meal, we will have these available for collection at the normal lunch time.

If your child is at home, we will use two methods to communicate work for home study to our students:

1. Firstly we have created a “Home Study” section on our school website where all year groups have subjects resources for them to use whilst at home. The page can be located from our home page using the “Students” tab on the menu.



You will also be able to access staff emails here and additional websites that will be useful for further study.

- In addition to these resources, teachers will be setting class work using the Go4schools Home Work App, which should come through to your usual device. They will set work according to the amount of curriculum time they would have with the students, but this may not be a daily update and should be managed by students and parents. If any help is needed to access or login to this please contact passwords@thecoleshillschool.org

Year 9 are expected to complete at least three hours of work a day. They should be aiming to complete work for their core subjects (English, maths and science), EBACC subjects (geography, history and MFL) and their option subjects. Year 9 will find knowledge organisers for their subjects on the school website, these should be used to assist independent learning. I would also encourage students to build in some physical activity to their day; for example Joe Wicks is offering a PE lesson each weekday between 9am and 5pm <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6r99N3kXME>. May I also recommend, from Relax Kids, this free resource to assist young people in giving reassurance and helpful techniques to keep calm during this uncertain time: <https://www.relaxkids.com/calm-pack>.

We want to reassure our students, and their families, that we are committed to their needs and are working to provide an education, which can provide some stability and structure during these ever-changing times. We are grateful for your support and understanding and would like take this opportunity to wish you and your family well for the future.

Please check our website regularly for updates to the Home Study area and any further notices.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Debbie Tremble
Assistant Head Teacher