



from Tom Lawson MA (Oxon), Headmaster

19 March 2020

Dear Parents, Pupils and Staff,

Our experience today, with over four hundred pupils not in school, is of a distinctly exhausted and anxious pupil body. With an increasing number of staff being asked to self-isolate because they or a family member may be vulnerable we have taken the decision to end the Lent Term **this evening at 8.00pm**.

Of course, we will be open tomorrow morning for anyone who needs to collect books or belongings. If you are unable to have your children at home tomorrow (Friday) then please let the hsm know and we will make arrangements for them to be looked after on the site.

Staff will come in on Friday morning to receive further training on the kind of systems we can use to provide the remote learning that is likely to be necessary from the start of next term. We are committed to providing meaningful work for all our pupils to keep everyone academically in tune and making the progress they need towards the next stage of their education.

Over the coming days we will have more clarity about the kind of childcare provision the Charity can offer key workers among our parent body over the holidays and we will understand more about the appropriate approach for pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 given that A-levels and GCSEs will not happen in the normal way in May/June.

I would have liked to have kept going with normal lessons right up to the scheduled close but in practice we feel pupils will benefit from calling it a day at the close of play tonight.

Thank you so much for all the messages of support you have written as we struggle to respond to a rapidly-evolving educational landscape.

Yours,

Tom Lawson  
Headmaster

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Tom Lawson MA (Oxon)

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