20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I wanted to write to you directly to make you aware of how we will continue to support your child’s education over the coming weeks at The Appleton School. As you are aware the Government is closing all schools as of today for all children, however they remain open for children in the following categories:

- Looked After Children (Children who are currently fostered)
- Children on Educational Health Care Plans
- Children who have attached to them a social worker
- Children in receipt of Free School Meals (during the lunch period only)

I have put together a programme of staff to run these necessary activities at a time of national emergency. My staff are all happy to play their part at this time of national crisis and I would wish to take this opportunity to thank them on your behalf. **PLEASE NOTE FROM OUR RECORDS WE DO NOT BELIEVE YOUR CHILD SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL.**

Staff will have by the end of the school day made available online learning materials for each subject for the next two weeks. These are generic materials due to the limited time we have had to compile this work. We will however be releasing further work on a fortnightly basis which will be much more specific to your child’s learning needs. The initial work is available through our School's Website. If you are using our website the work can be found under the tab ‘students’ and then go to the section ‘work from home’. At this stage you will be directed to the year group your child is currently in. You will find here sufficient work for a two week period. If students would like to do more than this they should be directed to our plethora of online learning materials which is attached to this letter. If any parents do not have access to the internet, can I ask that you come into school to collect a printed learning pack. Could I also ask that you arrange a time to do this via our School Office so that we can have these materials ready for you.

Regarding students being entered for terminal examinations this summer, we have no further news but I do believe a national announcement is due to be made on this issue at 4pm today. I do not

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know the detail of this announcement, and I do not know whether this will only apply to students in Years 11 and 13, but as soon as I am aware I will contact you with further details. We will also write to inform you when the school opens again for normal service.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support to date in these unprecedented times and my staff for their unparalleled professionalism. You never know how strong your teams are until being strong is their only choice. I am delighted to report that my staff have risen to this challenge and have offered me so much support at this time.

You will also be aware that I wrote to you in January to make you aware that I would be retiring from my position as Headteacher at The Appleton School. Interviews were due to take place for my successor this week but needed to be cancelled to allow everyone to focus on national issues. Under these circumstances, I offered to withdraw my resignation as schools need experienced leadership at this time. Governors and Trustees have accepted my offer. I will therefore remain in post for at least the Autumn term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Kerridge
Headteacher