



Update regarding school closures 9 p.m on 4 January 2021

Dear parent/carer.

I am sorry to have to contact you again, so soon, to announce yet another change affecting your children's education.

Following the prime minister's announcement this evening, I would like to clarify the arrangements for schooling over the coming weeks. Clearly, we do not yet have full government guidance. I will need to write to you again in the coming days and weeks.

For now, I can confirm three things:

First, the School will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during the national Lockdown. If earlier today you received a message confirming that your child has a place in school this week, this place remains secure and the instructions in that email remain valid.

Any parent or carer whose child qualifies for a place in school during this Lockdown but who has not yet taken up that place can elect to do so at any time by emailing office@chartereastdulwich.org.uk. The school requires at least one full school day's notice before making a place available in order carefully to manage its on-site staffing levels.

Second, the School will remain closed to all other students until, we understand, the February half term break. The guidance provided earlier today regarding the move towards a mostly live timetable and the prioritisation of provision by year group remains valid. The pace at which things change will obviously have to change. I will provide more clarity as soon as the government provides the necessary level of detail to schools.

Third, it appears that GCSE examinations over the Summer will be replaced in whole or in part by some alternative form of assessment. While this is deeply regrettable, I believe it is the right decision, given the extent of disruption caused to the education of children in examination classes. That said, I must stress that students in Year 11 will be formally assessed in some form or another. I cannot say with any certainty what that form will take, but I can assure you, and them, that they will need to remain focused on their achievement and fully up-to-date with the schoolwork provided during the Lockdown in order to have the best chance of success.

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It is our understanding as of 9pm on Tuesday that January examinations in Enterprise & Marketing and in BTEC Sports **will** go ahead as planned.

I hope to be in touch as soon as possible with more detail concerning these latest developments. I can well understand how distressing this must be for parents. I would like to reassure you that the School remains committed to doing everything possible to ensure your children's wellbeing and achievement during this most difficult time.

Thank you for your continued support and kind regards.

Mr. A. Crossman
Headteacher
