



# KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

## KNARESBOROUGH

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support at this unprecedented time of disruption and uncertainty. I can assure you that all of the King James's staff are working incredibly hard to keep pupils safe and also to maintain continuity of learning. There have been some hard decisions to make in the last few days and we have done our best to make the right choices, there's no handbook for this situation.

Like the rest of the country we have staff who, for a variety of reasons, are not able to report for work due to the impact of COVID19. We are trying to run the school with over 20% of the staff unavailable.

**I can confirm that the next two days at King James's will be operating as follows:**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March: school will be open to Years 7, 9, 11 and 13 only**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March: school will be open to Years 8, 10 and 12 only**

This information is correct as of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, it may change if the government announce any further measures.

At this stage we have no idea whether, or how long, schools will remain open. We are planning for various contingencies. **I will make a decision on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March which year groups we would like in school next week.** We will not be able to be fully open.

A significant amount of time in the next two days will be spent with the pupils showing them how we have set up our remote learning platform. There is a very simple guide and a longer explanation on the COVID19 section of our website. This can be accessed here:

<http://www.king-james.co.uk/parents-students/covid19.html>

At this stage there is no information from the exam boards as to whether exams will go ahead as planned but we are committed to supporting Year 11 and Year 13 in the event that they do go ahead. Your role as parents in supporting learning will be more important than ever in the coming weeks. We would be grateful if you could ensure that pupils have access to basic stationery. All of the remote learning that we are planning can be accessed using smartphones, tablets and PC. Obviously it's harder to complete work on a smartphone so use of a laptop or tablet would be preferable. We have asked staff not to require pupils to print, all work can be uploaded electronically back onto our learning platform.

We appreciate that some families may not have access to all of the right equipment but until we roll out the system in the next few days we are not sure how many pupils will have difficulties accessing their school work, we hope it won't be many. We will address that in the next few days.

This will be a new experience of distance learning. The learning platform has a communication facility so that pupils can maintain contact with teachers. Teachers will be available during the day for queries but we would ask pupils not to contact teachers using the VLE or email during the evening.

All of our safeguarding and pastoral teams remain available. The admin email ([admin@king-james.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@king-james.n-yorks.sch.uk)) remains a principle point of contact and will be monitored even if we close.

That's all for now. We will keep in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CA Sugden', with a small flourish at the end.

Mr CA Sugden  
**Headteacher**