



Charles Darwin School

Operated by the Charles Darwin Academy Trust

Headteacher: Sunil Chotai, BSc

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid-19 school closure

Further to the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday I am writing to inform you that from 6th January 2021 the school will now be closed for face to face learning and that our plans for the mass testing of students are on hold.

The school will be open to the following however:

1. Children of key workers, children with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and those that are looked after and those who fall into the vulnerable category.
2. Those students in the Sixth Form sitting external examinations will need to attend the examinations as previously planned.

For all students we will be moving to remote learning immediately. Remote learning will be facilitated in a number of ways. Staff across the school will be using Showmyhomework, MS Teams and other subject specific online software packages to set work to be completed each day. The work will be signposted on Showmyhomework as the central communication platform in this regard.

Your son/daughter will be supported through a mixture of live teaching, recorded lessons and online tasks. These will be set and will take place within the existing structure of the day and your son/daughter's present timetable. This will help with the planning and structuring of your child's learning.

It is very important that, as with the previous period of full school closure, you again help your child to get into a clear and consistent working routine that is as similar to the school day as far as possible.

We are aware, of course, that every family is faced with their own particular set of circumstances and that 'home learning' is far from ideal. Where we are able to continue to work together though we are confident of achieving the best outcomes both academically and in personal development for your child given these difficult circumstances

Online learning is live as of the 5th January thanks to the hard work and planning of our staff and we will continue to deliver this as effectively as possible. However, we trust there is a shared understanding that teaching staff also face similar challenges to many other families, especially those with young children and at times this may affect the delivery of some lessons. We are also likely to continue to have staff who are having to self-isolate because of positive Covid-19 tests and again at times this may affect provision.

For details of our Remote Learning policy and links to online platforms please see the link below to our website.

<https://www.cdarwin.com/page/?title=Remote+LEarning&pid=403>

In preparation for the possibility of remote learning all students have been provided with login details for all the necessary software, should there be any access issues please do contact the class teacher or the relevant Achievement Coordinator for the year group as listed below.

Year 7	Mr. Woods	gwo@cdarwin.com
Year 8	Mr. Bidwell	jbi@cdarwin.com
Year 9	Miss Zysemil	czy@cdarwin.com
Year 10	Mrs. Tsang	nts@cdarwin.com
Year 11	Mr. Lamb	dla@cdarwin.com
Year 12	Mr Goss	rgo@cdarwin.com
Year 13	Mrs. Furness	lfu@cdarwin.com

It is our hope that all students will be able access the remote learning offer online, if however this is going to be difficult for you and your son/daughter then please do make contact with us via the Achievement Coordinator listed above so that we can explore together how we can help.

In order to guide students and parents with remote learning, class teachers have organised several documents some are available on our website. The most used are:

1. A log in post card – this was completed during tutorial time and students were asked to stick this in their planner. So, all students should have a record of their log in details.
2. Online platforms page - this is available on our website (link below) and is useful to access each online package used in the school.
3. Guide to remote working
4. How to support your child using GCSE Pod

For full details of our Remote Learning policy and links to online platforms please see the link below to our website:

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Public Examinations

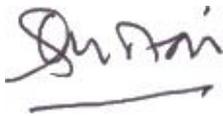
With regard to those students in Year 11 and Year 13 this will clearly be a time of considerable anxiety, whilst we await further updates from government, now that we have been told examinations will not take place “in the normal way in the summer”. Whilst this might be the case, it is vitally important that every student recognises that their current work will have a direct and significant influence on final examination grades. It is additionally important therefore, for these students to continue to work hard, attend live lessons and complete work that is set for them.

At this stage we believe and hope that the school closure will be up until February half term only, however we will be guided by the appropriate authorities and I will keep you updated via messages on our website and by email.

Lastly I would like to remind parents that whilst the school is closed and we are in lock down it is important that students are not out and about in the community during school hours or otherwise. These are difficult times and we want our students to act and behave in a mature and sensible manner. So far the vast majority have made us feel proud of how they have conducted themselves during these unprecedented times.

If for any reason you need to contact me then please free to email the school at schoolclosure@cdarwin.com.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sunil Chotai', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Sunil Chotai
Headteacher