

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents

Throughout the week we have been keeping you updated, as best we can, regarding school closures. I am sure you will appreciate that the situation has been changing constantly and we have all been working to an incredibly tight timescale. The staff at all of the schools within the Apollo Partnership Trust are totally committed to ensuring provision for students who have been identified within the Government criteria.

**The first principle of the Government guidelines make it clear that ‘parents should only send their child to school if there is no safe alternative. Provision in school is the last resort.’**

In order to support the parents in our school community who have a critical role during this time, we will be providing a safe space during school hours. This also includes other students identified by the Government.

Please note, pupils and students in schools in the coming weeks will need to wear full school uniform and in addition all school rules will be adhered to as normal. Pupils and students in schools will be following the timetable we have set online, and will be completing the same work as the students who are studying at home.

As a Trust, we have planned our provision in 3 phases. Currently we are focussing on the first phase – the next two weeks leading up to the Easter holiday break. For this first phase we have divided staff into two teams. One team will be in schools next week and one the following week.

We feel that by doing this we are enabling those important roles of ‘critical workers’ to be able to continue to work in order to keep our own community, and the country, running. At the same time, this enables our staff to work for some time from home and ensure social distancing for staff. During this time, staff will be working remotely – we will all still be here, albeit not always in person. As you will appreciate, it is my absolute responsibility to ensure the protection of all

staff within our Trust and that any staff within highlighted groups are also kept safe at this difficult time.

In my letter earlier this week, I explained that we will endeavour to make daily calls to parents, prioritising specific students. If daily calls are not possible due to staffing deficits, then we will make sure that regular calls are still made. You may also call in to the Trust. Please refrain from calling each school directly as calls may not be picked up on a daily basis. Instead, please use **01530 278986** and leave a message. These will be picked up every day.

Work for all of our young people is on each school website. Please could you follow the guidelines set out by each individual school. Supporting our students mental wellbeing and safety is also paramount. Over the coming days, schools will be sharing mental wellbeing apps and websites as well as sending you a weekly bulletin on how to stay safe online. We will continue to regularly update our social media accounts, and I will write to you next week.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kindness over the past few days which has enabled us to plan our provision for the first phase of what is going to be a long journey. I'd also like to thank the staff of all our Apollo schools who are determined that we stand together.

My very best wishes



Julia Patrick

CEO  
Apollo Partnership Trust

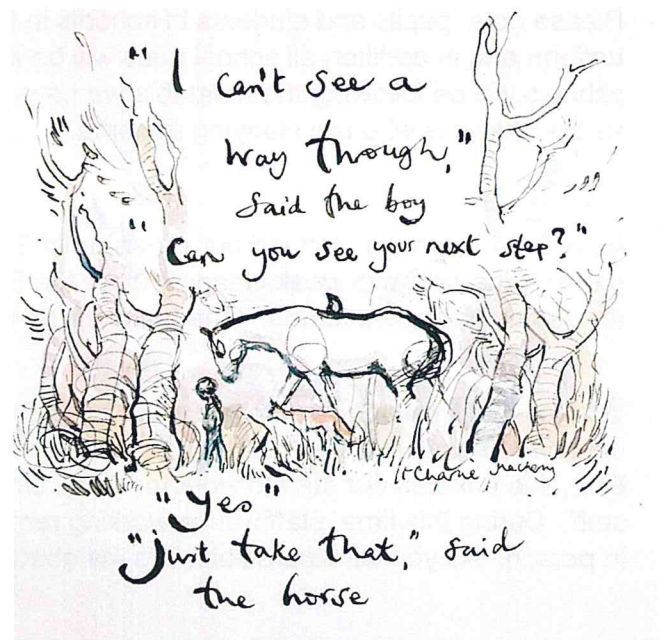


Illustration from Charlie Mackesy