



**EMMANUEL COLLEGE**  
*Emmanuel Schools Foundation*

18 March 2020

**To all our parents, students and staff at Emmanuel College**

The news this evening that from Monday, schools across the UK will be closed to most pupils until further notice, will have been met by some of you with relief, some with confusion and some with anxiety. All of us will have questions that we want answers to.

We've had another very positive day in College today with students once again rising to the challenge of the hour. I have, once again, been exceptionally impressed by our staff team who have stepped in without question to offer their help in a wide variety of ways to enable us to maintain a calm, purposeful, productive atmosphere in school. I am particularly grateful to the part-time staff who have come into College on their day off to help and to our trainee teachers who have stepped up to help in the most exemplary way.

At this stage, it is not possible to provide detailed answers to the questions that you will be discussing at home: Who will still be able to come into school? What will the provision in school look like? What will students who are at home be required to do? How exactly will exam grades be awarded? What about university places? I can assure you all that these questions concern me as much as they do you and that I will be working energetically on seeking answers to these key questions for you. What we do know at this stage is that a full list of key worker categories will be published by the Cabinet Office tomorrow and that children who do not fall into these groups will be expected to remain at home with appropriate care. I can assure you we will do everything in our power to support Emmanuel students, their families, and our staff team at this time of uncertainty.

We remain open as usual tomorrow and on Friday. We will continue with Year 9 exams; to do otherwise would not be fair to students who have worked so hard in preparation for them. We will continue to be as purposeful, calm and as productive as we can over the next two days as well as working to understand and plan for the months ahead.

With very best regards

Matthew Waterfield  
**Principal**