



20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

This is certainly the strangest letter that I have had to write during my time at Witchford.

These are obviously unusual times, and we are all now facing challenges that we are having to deal with to keep safe and also keep going. As a College we will do all that we can to support our students, families and communities during this difficult time. We have provided students with a range of resources and guidance to ensure that they are still completing learning at home, and we thank you for your support with this. All of my staff will be keeping in regular contact with students and parents, both from an educational and a care point of view.

Our website is now live, with information for parents/carers on work and other questions. There are also contact numbers for a range of staff, depending on the need.

Whilst we fully understand the government's decision to close the College and cancel the exams, our staff are really disappointed that the work and effort put in by our Year 11 students will not be recognised through formal examinations. We await to hear how grades will be awarded, and will do all we can to ensure that the awarding exam boards get as much evidence and information as is required.

The students were obviously upset, but it was fantastic to see the whole year group attend College yesterday. I have reassured them that they will still have a Prom, and that they still are our student's right up until that time!

We are now faced with sending all of our students and staff away for a period of time that no one can predict. Above all else, this is now about making sure that everyone safely returns to us come the end. My wife sent me a story this morning that asked everyone to become 'stay at home superheroes'. Whilst this was directed mainly at primary age children, I believe the message equally applies. We will be asking your children to support each other and the family. To take ownership of their own learning and to follow advice when ill or to avoid becoming ill. In this job, you constantly see children and families that surprise you with their bravery and resilience. We now all face these challenges and we all now become superheroes for each other.

Please keep well, please let us know if there is anything else we can do to support and we look forward to throwing our doors open again as soon as possible.

Kindest regards

From all the staff at Witchford Village College