



19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

With each passing day, we all become ever more aware of the enormity of the Coronavirus and its impact on every one of us. Late yesterday afternoon, the Secretary of State for Education informed the nation that schools would stay fully open until the end of Friday of this week.

Thereafter, he asked schools to operate as 'community hubs' to accommodate the more vulnerable students from within our Nishkam family as well as the children of 'key workers' (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) from Monday onwards.

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

At Nishkam, our 'faith inspired, virtues led' approach to education and life means that we are ready to play our part and help as much as possible.

**To do that, in the first instance, we need to ask you all whether you come under the category of 'key worker' (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and, if so, whether sending your child into school next week is something that would help you?**

It is vitally important that I know how many families need our support so that we can deploy our staffing resources accordingly. I need to know:

- your name
- your occupation
- your child's name
- your child's year group and form group

**You can get that information to me directly by emailing me at:**

**[NHSBPrincipal@nishkamschools.org](mailto:NHSBPrincipal@nishkamschools.org)**

For the other pupils of the school, those who will be at home until further notice, we have been working hard to create resources for distance learning and I will write out again before the end of the day on Friday with more details about how we intend to accomplish that.

Some parents of year 11 and year 13 students may have heard that the summer examinations have been postponed. That pronouncement will have come as a shock to many of you. As Principal, I am still getting to grips with that decision. There is still so much that we do not yet know. I would therefore ask, at least in the short term, that students in those year groups remain committed to their studies and their revision. In extraordinary times, extraordinary decisions can be made. It is better that our students remain prepared for any eventuality.

My letters to you can all be found on our school website and also on our Facebook page. I will use those two platforms to keep in touch with you all through this next difficult phase of our lives. Please do everything you can to stay safe and well and let us know if there is anything we as a school can do to help you.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DKearns', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Kearns  
Principal