

27 March 2020



Dear Parents/Carers

### COVID-19 Update: Friday 27.03.20

I hope that you and your families are safe and healthy in these challenging times and am very grateful to those who are keeping frontline services going. Here are a few updates for you:

- We have remained open this week with a small skeleton staff to provide for a group of children whose parents are keyworkers. This provision will continue.
- Mr Salmon has informed me that most students have been able to access SHOW MY HOMEWORK. We have set up a page on the 'students' tab of our website to support your child with accessing online learning <https://www.archwayschool.net/page/?title=Students&pid=72>. If you are having issues accessing the work set by staff, please refer to this webpage in the first instance. Mr Salmon also remains available via email [dominicsalmon@archwayschool.net](mailto:dominicsalmon@archwayschool.net) for anyone who gets stuck.
- A reminder of the email address for those entitled to free school meals - [freeschoolmeals@archwayschool.net](mailto:freeschoolmeals@archwayschool.net)
- Ofqual, who oversee examinations, published the following yesterday:
  - Students understandably want reassurance, and teachers urgently need to know what to do, and when. We expect to publish detailed information about the process and timetable which will apply this summer next week. This will include the steps we would like teachers to follow and more detailed guidance on how to consider the full range of evidence they will have available when submitting their assessment grades. We are talking to teaching representatives to make sure that what we are planning is manageable and appropriate, so that students, parents, carers and teachers can have confidence in the approach.
  - We will outline by Easter the process we will follow to make sure grades are fair across schools and colleges, as well as our proposals for appeals. We will also say more as soon as possible about the arrangements for additional exams in the new academic year.
  - We want to reassure students waiting for news that we are doing everything we can to make sure they are not disadvantaged by these unprecedented circumstances.

### Sixth Form

Sixth Form interviews have been cancelled. We realise that this is a difficult time for the Year 11s and want to help relieve any anxiety that they may be feeling. As a result, all students who are awarded the required grades will automatically have a place in the Sixth Form.

The minimum requirements are:

GCSE passes at Grades 4 - 9 in English and Mathematics and at least 3 other GCSE passes at 4 or above. A minimum of grade 4 is required in any subject chosen for study apart from Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and French, in which a grade 6 is required. Where a subject has not been studied at GCSE entry will be at the discretion of the Subject Leader and Head of Sixth Form.

If your child does not reach the minimum requirements or you have any questions regarding Archway Sixth Form, you can contact [mattredman@archwayschool.net](mailto:mattredman@archwayschool.net) who will be contactable throughout the school closure and the summer holidays.

Stroud College have sent the following message for students hoping to enrol for September:

We'd like to re-assure students with the following new measures that we have implemented –

- All full-time interviews for SGS 2020 entry are now cancelled until further notice. Instead we will give an automatic "unconditional offer" to all learners due for interview.
- In addition it has been agreed for the immediate future that we will be offering unconditional places to all full-time applicants who apply to SGS College (not University Level).
- Once you apply for your course, <https://www.sgscol.ac.uk/study> we will reply with a place offer. If you accept we will then discuss it further with you when the Covid-19 risk reduces.
- Our open day scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> April has been cancelled so we are scheduling Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June as an additional open event for all courses at our campuses.

Please do not hesitate to contact Stroud College at [info@sgscol.ac.uk](mailto:info@sgscol.ac.uk) if you have any queries. Stroud College hope to offer a scaled down service at each site to cater for students who need to attend to support parents/carers on front-line services.

### **Music**

Two of our peripatetic music teachers – Matthew Clark and Charlie Bunting - have offered the possibility of online lessons during this time. If your children are interested in this, we are happy to pass your email addresses onto them. You can do this by emailing [admin@archwayschool.net](mailto:admin@archwayschool.net)

### **Safeguarding**

During this period of closure if anyone has a concern about a child being at risk, they can contact [safeguarding@archwayschool.net](mailto:safeguarding@archwayschool.net) which is checked each day. This address is also being emailed to students.

The County Council telephone number for **parents** to ask about Covid-19 school-related enquiries is 01452 426015 or email: [covidschoolenquiries@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:covidschoolenquiries@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

We will continue to update you as things develop and change. Our very best wishes to you all.

Yours faithfully



Colin Belford  
**Headteacher**