

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: School Closure update

Following yesterday's announcement from the Prime Minister that schools across England will close at the end of the week, I am aware that this will put additional pressure on families and cause uncertainty. Whilst information from the Government is being continually updated, I write with the Academy's plans from Friday 20 March.

Please be aware that in order for the Academy to prepare for the coming weeks it will be necessary for us to close slightly earlier tomorrow. The Academy will close to all students at 1.00pm. Thandi will operate their normal coach service at this time.

As per national guidance, from Monday 23 March the Academy will remain closed to all students except those where both parents are classed as key workers, as well as students who are subject to an Education and Healthcare Plan (EHCP) or children who have an allocated social worker. For those students who are eligible to attend, please note that this is not mandatory and online lessons are available should you elect to keep your child at home.

In order to ascertain numbers, we would ask that parents/carers who are key workers should contact the school to indicate whether you intend for your child to attend school. Please note, that you will be required to provide evidence of your key worker status. Thandi will be running a coach service for the children of key workers who already use the coach. Please contact Thandi directly for further details.

It is also worth stressing that the purpose and function of the school during this period is to be a central hub to support key workers and vulnerable children. With this in mind, students will not follow a normal timetable, but will work on online curriculum tasks in line with the students not in school. They will also participate in activities and tasks which are feasible and appropriate. The age range will be mixed. The Academy's opening hours will be 8.15am – 3.20pm. The restaurant will be open to these students to purchase toast at breakfast and sandwiches at lunchtime.

We are unable to accommodate students whose parents are not key workers at this time, in line with the Government guidelines on social distancing. However, from Monday the Academy's Online Curriculum will have a new link under the heading School Closure. This has a range of work and activities to support students' learning from home. This will be regularly updated to ensure that students are supported as effectively and efficiently as possible. It also includes key contacts from each department, should students need support or have any questions about their work.

This is, of course, a rapidly evolving situation and we will update you as soon as we have more information regarding examinations and Free Schools Meals.

If you have any safeguarding concerns then please visit the safeguarding page on our website for key contacts and guidance.

Finally, I would like to remind parents that if anyone in the household is displaying any of the symptoms of coronavirus then the up to date advice is that all members of the family self-isolate for 14 days.

Also, as stated in my previous letter, parents and young people with questions about COVID-19 related to education can contact the Department for Education helpline as follows:

- phone: 0800 046 8687

- email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

The opening hours for the DfE are 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Yours sincerely

Mr Williams

Headteacher