



Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mrs Alison Sherman

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the announcement by the government on Wednesday 18 March 2020, I can confirm that we shall be closing at 2.40pm today.

The academy will remain open for students who are the children of key workers. Please see this guidance from the government to clarify whether you or your partner are a “key worker” under the current directive:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>.

For children who are classed as “vulnerable,” the academy will also remain open.

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans. Children who have a social worker include children in need, children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority.

Please note: the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

If you have not already done so, please complete the survey that we have sent to you to indicate whether, as a key worker, you need to send your child(ren) into the academy next week.

Children attending the academy need to wear uniform as normal on Monday. As advised by the Department for Education, students will be supervised to work independently on the online work that has already been set by teachers. The situation will be regularly reviewed and we will update you with any changes.

Students eligible for Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals we will send you an electronic supermarket voucher to allow you to purchase food for a lunchtime meal for them. These will be sent to you on Monday unless your child is attending the academy as one of the students detailed above. In this case, they will receive their meal from our usual caterers.

Online Work

For the duration of the closure, your child will be set work via the ‘Show My Homework’ system. We have explained to the students how to access this work and how to submit their assignments for teachers to assess. Mrs Grace will send you a letter with further details.

I would encourage Year 11 and 13 to also complete the set work as it will be good preparation for their future studies.

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Public Examinations

As yet, we have no further information on how GCSE and A Level qualifications will be awarded. I will of course notify you as soon as I am able to.

We have spoken to our Year 11 and Year 13 students and have explained that this is absolutely not a 'goodbye'; whatever happens, we WILL hold an official leaver's day, leaver's assembly and a Prom – they deserve nothing less. In the meantime, I just want to say that they have been absolutely incredible in the way they have handled Wednesday's announcement.

I should also add that we very much consider them all to still be in our care and we will be doing all we can to support every single one of them over the next few weeks and months.

We have reassured all our Year 11 students who have applied for a place in our Sixth Form, that they have an unconditional offer of a place in our sixth form in September. We will send out further details in due course.

Finally can I once again thank you all for your support and patience during this extremely difficult and worrying time.

A skeleton staff will remain on the academy site and we will respond to any queries or concerns that we receive. Please be assured of our continued commitment supporting our students and their families as much possible.

Most importantly, please continue to follow Government advice in order that you and your family remain fit and well.

I will continue to communicate with you should there be any further developments.

Yours faithfully



A M Sherman
Principal