

5th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

School Closure

As you will have heard, the Prime Minister announced late yesterday evening that schools will close immediately as part of the measures put in place to control the spread of COVID-19. It has been reported that this will be in place until February half term. Should this change, we will of course let you know.

The Prime Minister also announced that “not all exams” would go ahead as normal this year and that there would be alternative arrangements. He said the Government would set out further details on this at a later date. We will update parents and students due to take exams this year as soon as we have more information. **Please be aware that vocational exams scheduled for this week and next week are still going ahead.** Students will need to attend the Academy to sit these exams.

Provision for vulnerable children and children of key workers

If both you and your partner are key workers, or if your child is classed as vulnerable and is unable to remain at home, your child will be able to attend school; they will access the remote learning at a computer the same as the children who are accessing this at home. If you are wanting your child to access key worker and vulnerable provision you should have already applied for this.

Safety Measures

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school as safe as possible, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the safety measures in place at our school:

- All students and staff must wear a face covering in communal areas, unless exempt;
- Everyone is expected to remain in their allocated bubbles;
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands regularly and use hand sanitiser throughout the day.

Virtual Learning

High-quality remote learning will be provided for students who are accessing from home. These will be live lessons on Google Meet but where this is not possible, work will be provided on Google Classroom.

Students are expected to complete **all** work set by teachers and to attend **all** scheduled live lessons. We know that this places pressure on you at a difficult time but your support in helping your child engage with the remote learning packs as much as possible is so important in keeping them up to date with their learning and we are very grateful for it. All information and guidance on accessing remote learning is available on our Academy website and social media pages.

Free School Meals

A packed lunch will be available today for all students eligible for a free school meal. These can be collected from the Academy's delivery entrance between 11.00am and 12.30pm. From tomorrow, we will be issuing supermarket vouchers using the same scheme we used for the Winter Grant. Once these vouchers are issued, we will notify you with guidance on how to access them on line.

We will continue to stay in touch with you throughout this time and following any major announcements as they happen. However, do get in touch if you need any further information, or if you require any support relating to these new arrangements.

I would like to thank you for your support. I know these are difficult times but I am confident that we will continue to make a difference to your child's education together, despite the lockdown restrictions imposed on us.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Butcher
Principal