

March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils from end of day, Friday, March 20 2020

Following on from my update yesterday, I am now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.**

A reminder that only **Years 7, 10 and 11 will be in the academy tomorrow** due to the number of staff not currently in school. **Years 8 and 9 will be completing home learning.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with identified needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories please use this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MPyA2cPr8U2djSKyysLmZQDPEYkyDaVCs7-UYqyWfGJUNERZUEREuzM3UDRHNIhDNTM1ODE4QzA3My4u>

Please complete this electronic form by 11.00 am Friday 20th March 2020.

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

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by the App and the school website.

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

- As such, work is being set on line through Show My Homework.
- If you have no access to Show My Homework please contact the school for a work pack to be prepared and a collection date and time arranged.
- While school is closed it is expected that you ensure students are kept at home and engaged in the set work.
- Each child has been allocated a link member of staff who will contact you weekly.
- Parents will be able to contact the school between 8.00 am and 12.00 noon.

We will provide further information regarding FSM. Please complete the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MPyA2cPr8U2djSKyysLmZQDPEYkyDaVCs7-UYqyWfGJUNERZUEREuzM3UDRHNIhDNTM1ODE4QzA3My4u>

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Examinations

As you will know, all public examinations in May and June have been cancelled, including GCSEs and A-levels as well as England's primary school national curriculum tests, known as SATS.

Clearly, this is a difficult time for all of the young people affected and their families.

As we find out more information over the coming days and weeks, we will share that with you and work in partnership to deliver the best outcomes for all our young people. I have spoken to all Year 11 students today to give them guidance and reassurance moving forward.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so however, please be mindful that in many cases information and details are currently not available.

Communication of Illness

So that we can continue to monitor the ongoing situation of the health of our students, it is very important, even though we are in a state of forced closure, that you still inform us if your child becomes unwell or if you have confirmed/suspected Coronavirus in your household. This information will help us to monitor the situation as we near a time when we are able to consider reopening. We are obviously asking the same of our staff to ensure that we are well informed about the health of our school community.

Please continue to advise us via email: lbayliss-farley@erdingtonacademy.bham.sch.uk provide the following:

- What illness/injury/symptoms the student has
- If the student has symptoms of suspected Coronavirus and hence in a period of self-isolation
- If any member of the household has symptoms and are self-isolating
- If the student has been diagnosed as having Coronavirus and is self-isolating. Please may we remind you that we should all respect the confidentiality of others and refrain from discussing individuals, particularly over social media.

Staying Healthy

We are all inundated with advice about handwashing and being careful to not touch eyes, noses and mouths etc. Advice on this is available on our Coronavirus webpage of agencies that are available to look after our mental health. We feel this is very important given the fact that we are likely to face more time than we would ordinarily in isolation.

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Thank you for your support in this matter. We know that you and our students will do all you can to limit the impact of the forced closure on learning. We will continue to do all we can to support you and our students through this period. Please take good care of yourselves and those in your local community. We very much look forward to seeing all students back in school in the near future.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mallett', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

S.Mallett
Head of Academy