

20 March 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure that you will be aware of the unprecedented impact that the COVID-19 epidemic is having on the nation. Unfortunately, following the strategy from the government, I have made the difficult decision to close the academy to virtually all students from Friday 20 March at 2.20pm.

I want to assure parents that there are a significant amount of resources available to you and your child to help support their education over the coming period. The resources can be accessed via the links and tutorials above in the event of a closure and through Sharepoint, teachers have provided work for every lesson that your child would normally attend. If the closure is longer than expected, teachers will continue to upload resources for students to access from home to try and minimise the impact of the closure.

All students, in all year groups, have been shown how to access their work for each lesson and have been told about the expectations of what they should be doing. This has been communicated through lessons and VT groups. The academy has also provided an exercise book for every student so that they can complete work and keep a record of the progress they are making. Year 7 to 9 students have also each been given a reading book by their English teacher to support their progress and engagement in reading. This is a gift from the academy for students to keep.

Year 11 students have individual revision packs in addition to the online resources. As government officials are working with exam boards to ensure that children “get the qualifications that they need”, a plan for how qualifications and grades will be awarded is yet to be confirmed. *It is therefore crucial that students continue their studies to ensure they are prepared for every eventuality in this time of uncertainty.*

Should students be concerned about the work or unsure of how to progress, they are able to contact their teachers via email for support. How to do this has been explained to students and is covered by one of our ‘help’ videos.

We encourage students to **check their academy email** every day as teachers will be communicating with them and there will be updates via email, **Twitter** and the website for parents and carers to ensure that everyone is kept as up to date as possible on the changing national picture and the support that the academy is offering.

The academy fully supports the government’s desire to keep schools open for the most vulnerable and the children of key workers thus supporting the work of the NHS. Please contact the academy as per the email sent earlier today if you believe that you are a key worker and need your child to continue to attend from Monday. As far as possible, lessons will continue as normal for students who are still attending.

The decision to close has not been taken lightly and we are aware of the disruption this will cause to our local community. However, we feel that the health of staff, students and their families is of paramount importance and we hope that this step serves to keep our community safe and healthy.

**Thank you for your continued support and I hope you and your families stay safe during these turbulent times.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr N Robinson – Principal