

17 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: COVID-19 – partial school closure and changes to advice for families

Following my previous letter regarding academy opening arrangements on Tuesday 17th March and taking into account the most recent advice from the government and Public Health England in relation to self-isolation and household isolation, we are aware that there will continue to be significant staff absence tomorrow and for the foreseeable future.

In order to preserve the safety of staff and students on site, **the school will remain partially closed**. Currently, we will be **open for the following students only**:

- Children in the Acorn who are not in household isolation
- Students in Year 7 who are not in household isolation
- Students in Year 11 who are not in household isolation
- Students whose parents are front line NHS and other emergency services staff who are not in household isolation - please see the guidance overleaf as to whom this applies.

We are continuing to follow the advice of Public Health England and will not fully close unless directed to do so.

We understand that you, or your child, may be feeling anxious about the impact of absence on their learning. Information shared with you recently provided access to some online learning platforms; please do encourage and support your child to use these. Work for your child is available on Insight.

To continue to support our students who are learning at home, we would also like to offer children in Years 8, 9 and 10 (who are not in household isolation) the opportunity to come to King's Oak Academy tomorrow (Wednesday 18th March) at the following times to collect paper based learning resources, class books and appropriate revision guides which they can subsequently use at home to support their online learning programmes:

- Year 8: 9.30 – 11am
- Year 9: 11 – 12.30pm
- Year 10: 1 – 2.30pm

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Government Advice Update

We would like to make you aware that today the government reinforced that we all make changes to our lifestyles. These are as follows:

1. Everyone to stop non-essential contact with others and to stop all unnecessary travel
2. Anyone who has, or lives with someone who has a **persistent cough or a temperature** should stay at home for **14 days**
3. The Government clarified and extended its definition of vulnerable groups to include:
 - Citizens over 70-years-old
 - Citizens with relevant underlying health conditions
 - Pregnant womenAnyone in any of these groups should stay at home for 12 weeks of self-isolation
4. People should start working from home where they possibly can
5. Avoid pubs, clubs, theatres and other such social venues
6. Only use the NHS when we really need to, via online services if possible
7. From tomorrow government will no longer be "supporting" mass gatherings using emergency workers

This means that if your child has a cough or a temperature, your whole family should stay at home for 14 days from when the condition developed. If your child is otherwise well, but a family member has a cough or a temperature, they **should not attend school for 14 days**. You will not be penalised for this non-attendance at school, however we do ask that you **inform us directly of your need to isolate**. If your child has a relevant underlying health condition, they should begin a period of self-isolation for the next 12 weeks.

How can you support your child(ren):

You can support your child by ensuring they have a note of passwords to any online learning accounts (as noted in previous communication), where possible a quiet place to work in the home. If you have any concerns regarding access to any of the above please contact your child's classroom teacher / tutor in the first instance.

Links to the website and the Department of Education helpline are overleaf.

Yours faithfully



Katherine Ogden
Associate Principal

Additional Information

The department for Education helpline to answer questions about COVID 19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

- Phone 0800 046 8687
- Email DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk
- Opening hours 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

The Academy website has a page dedicated to providing access to Public Health England advice, this is updated daily.

<https://www.clf.uk/coronavirus-advice/>

Who is a key worker?

- **clinical staff employed by the NHS**
- teachers, including further education teachers and Early Years/nursery teachers
- police officers and community support officers in specified forces
- frontline police staff (civilians) may also be eligible in some areas
- prison officers and some Prison Service staff in prisons in specified areas
- probation officers (senior or not) and, for intermediate rent only, trainee probation officers
- local authority (LA) or local education authority (LEA) or NHS social workers
- uniformed staff, below principal level, in fire and rescue services
- armed forces personnel and some civilian Ministry of Defence (MoD) personnel (i.e. clinical staff, MoD police officers and uniformed staff in the Fire and Defence Service), also including some discharged personnel
- Highway Agency traffic officer staff
- LA environmental health officers/practitioners.