

18th March 2020



Dear Parent/Carer,

It is with great regret that I write to inform you that from tomorrow, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Blackpool Aspire Academy will be closed for years 7 and 8. This decision has not been taken easily, however, due to staff absence I can no longer provide a safe educational environment for all of our year groups. Clearly, Year 11 have the most pressing need for formal education and Years 9 and 10 have external exams within the next term, hence the decision to keep these year groups in school.

Today all children in years 7 and 8 will be provided with a study pack comprising English, Maths, Science, History and French workbooks. This work should be completed each day during the course of the closure. In addition to the study packs the Aspire website has been updated with a 'Home Learning' section for each year group, which will be updated regularly with activities and web links for students to work through. You will, I'm sure, want to ensure that children aren't in the local community during core school hours and, to make planning easier, students should generally aim to do work for particular subjects at the timings indicated on their normal timetable.

Students in years 7 and 8 that are eligible for Free School meals can, if not self-isolating, collect a full packed lunch from the staff entrance to school during the normal lunch break – 1.20-2.00pm.

Clearly, this is an unprecedented situation, and we are working hard to manage it as effectively as possible. We really appreciate your patience. Children in years 9, 10 and 11 should, for the time being, continue to attend as usual, while following government health advice.

I will endeavour to communicate with you as regularly as possible via our texting service and through the Website as at this stage it is unclear when we will be able to reopen for all year groups. Look after yourselves and your loved ones at this really difficult time for everyone.

Very best wishes,

John Woods Headteacher

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