*Dear Parents and Carers, 4th Jan 2021*

*Following the Government announcement this evening, all schools in England have been asked to close from tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January) as part of a national lockdown planned in response to a surge in COVID-19 and a new variant in the virus.*

*This will mean that the vast majority of pupils will need to remain at home until further notice is available on when schools will be able to re-open.*

*We will be providing online learning for all pupils while LECA is closed. This will commence from Tuesday 5th January and you will have already have been sent detailed information about the delivery of lessons and the online platforms we use.* ***Please refer to previous emails we have sent before contacting the office. If you have subject specific questions, please do not contact the office and instead contact the subject teacher directly.*** *All teacher email addresses can be found here:* [*https://lecacademy.org/staff*](https://lecacademy.org/staff)

*Our school will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers, as was the case during the national lockdown from March to June last year. The criteria used to identify vulnerable children and key workers can be found here:* [*https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision) *.*

*We will continue to offer free school meals for eligible children during this period while the school is closed. We are awaiting news on free school meal vouchers and as soon as we know more we will contact you again. In the meantime, the Academy is happy to provide packed lunches for all students on free school meals. Please contact us to request these.*

*At the moment, there is no clear date for when primary and secondary schools will be able to re-open to pupils, but we will update you as soon as this information becomes available.*

*We know this latest announcement will cause disruption for many families and we would like to thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we follow Government guidance.*

*As a school we had planned over the Christmas break to ensure the school is as safe as possible for pupils and staff to return. Your support is what got the school through 2020 and it is what will see us through the challenges of this next period.*

*While the school is closed, we encourage you to keep monitoring the Government’s advice – the information can be found on the Government website:* [*https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus*](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)*.*

*We will continue to keep you updated and if you have any immediate questions please contact the school via office@lecacademy.org.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Scott Gaskins*

*Principal*