

Monday, April 27, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are all well at this difficult time. I wanted to update you in terms of arrangements within the academy, I will write to parents once a week until we return to school (more frequently if necessary) to keep everyone as up to date as possible. This will replace the bulletins we have been posting on the website.

School Closure arrangements

The arrangements that have been in place since the Government announced the closure of schools remains the same, I would like to put on record my grateful thanks to the staff who volunteered to keep the academy open over the Easter period.

At this present time we have no confirmation or information regarding when schools are likely to reopen. The government have reiterated that this will not be until scientific evidence allows them to do so. Looking at other countries, I would also imagine that any return is likely to be phased. We will of course contact parents as soon as we have any information.

Free School Meals

Arrangements remain in place for collection of free school meals, the hamper offer has changed from next week to include items so that hot meals can be prepared for children at home.

Work at home

We recognise that trying to encourage children to work from home is not easy and that in a lot of cases this is balanced with parents trying to work from home. We also know that in most cases parents are not trained teachers, I would urge parents not to generate unnecessary stress and anxiety around work at this time. We will provide work on the website and through work packs where requested, if you are having any difficulties, please contact us on the relevant email addresses (on the website), we will respond and try and help. We have had some incidences of parents contacting us upset and worried as they can't help children with a particular task or are struggling to get children to complete tasks. If this is the case, contact your relevant Head of Year and we can offer some alternative options. There is enough stress and anxiety in the world at this present time, we can and should avoid further stress by working together.

If you do not have enough IT access at home and are struggling to access work online, please complete the form on the website and we will send you some paper based work.

IT access for certain students

The government announced on Sunday that IT would be offered to certain groups of children. We have received further information about this today and will contact parents next week to establish if children are eligible for equipment. Initially this is children in Y10 who are eligible for pupil premium.

Unity in the Community

Community is incredibly important at all times, but at the moment it is even more important. To support the local community, we have donated various items of PPE to the hospital, the Design & Technology department have also manufactured over 100 face visors for use by health care staff on the front line.

Many people are going the extra mile at this time and showing that kindness really does matter. I wanted to draw your attention to the work of Lucas in Y1 who has decided that whilst he has to stay at home, he is going to set himself a challenge to learn to play his keyboard. Lucas is being sponsored for this and is raising money for Trinity Hospice – should you feel able to you are able to sponsor Lucas through this link (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lucas-algar>)

Trips and Visits

I am aware of some communication from parents regarding future residential trips/visits, at present we have not cancelled the trips scheduled for October 2020 or February 2021 but during this period we will not be asking for any further parental contributions. Should the most sensible and safest decision be to not run these visits, we will have no hesitation in cancelling them, refunds will be issued at the point of cancellation by the academy and not before.

Finally, I wanted to finish by thanking you once again for your unwavering support during this time. As a school we have had to adapt to new ways of working in a very short space of time and your patience and support has been truly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Cooke
Headteacher