

COVID - 19 Unity Academy Daily Bulletin
18th March 2020

These are unprecedented times where the academy is relying on daily guidance from the Government, this guidance changes regularly and often this published information lags behind information in the press. This daily bulletin intends to keep all stakeholders as up to date as possible given the information we have and the fast moving situation.

School Closure Update

Thank you to parents, carers, students and staff for their support as we were forced to put in place a partial school closure for today. At this stage, we are unable to confirm when this will be until, however we do not anticipate it being for any less than 14 days as staff who are self isolating have been instructed to do so for 14 days. A government announcement may also override local decisions.

I can confirm that we intend to operate the same arrangements for tomorrow - Unity Academy will be closed for all students except those in Y5, 6 and 11 on Thursday 19th March.

Staff update

As of today, 50% of teachers are not in school and self isolating, significant numbers of support staff are also self isolating. FCAT have made the decision to ask all staff who have one of the Government defined pre existing medical conditions to work from home for 14 days in the first instance. This decision, taken to protect staff and their families, has led to many staff working from home including key members of the senior leadership team - this includes Mr. Cooke (Headteacher) and Mrs. McGuinness (Senior Deputy Headteacher).

Whilst the school is partially open, Mr Brennand (Senior Deputy Headteacher) will maintain operational leadership of the academy. Mr Brennand and Mr Cooke are in regular contact throughout the day and key decisions are still being taken by Mr Cooke.

Confirmed Cases at Unity Academy

We are aware of significant numbers of students and staff who are self isolating. At the time of writing (1pm), Public Health England have not contacted us to inform us of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst children, staff or families linked to Unity Academy.

Cleaning

Daily deep cleaning including more regular cleaning of handles and doors is taking place throughout the academy for those who are still attending. The closure of part of the school has allowed more focus to be placed on the areas currently being used by students and staff. As Public Health England have **not** confirmed any cases, government advice is **not** to close schools for deep cleaning.

Children and staff who present at school with COVID-19 symptoms

Any children who present in school with the symptoms of COVID-19 will need to go home, we will move children to a separate, ventilated room, whilst we await a parent/carer coming to pick them up. Should any child display the symptoms, government guidance is that they **and anyone who lives with them** should self isolate for 14 days. Self isolating is recorded as a Y code in school attendance systems and will not impact on attendance for children.

For any child who is currently still attending school, if they display any symptoms in the morning, **do not send them to school.**

Staff who present with symptoms will be asked to follow the same advice and asked to go home immediately where they **and anyone who lives with them** should self isolate for 14 days. Government guidance does not, **at this stage**, indicate that any children who have been taught by the member of staff should self isolate.

School Closure Work

Work for students during school closure will be placed on the website - www.unity.blackpool.org.uk - copies of all work will be placed under the Remote Learning link - these will be updated should we have to prolong the closure.

Links to Google classroom and other online learning tools are also on the website.

All children in R-Y10 were sent home yesterday with a paper based pack of work, in the case of Y5 and 6 this is not yet needed as school is open but can be used if students are self isolating. For any children already absent, this work will be delivered to homes - staff will not make contact when delivering these items and will indicate to you that the work is there before leaving.

Staff with underlying health conditions and those who are pregnant

These colleagues should work from home, self isolating for 14 days - an email was sent from Team FCAT yesterday. All colleagues who have family members at home with pre existing conditions (as defined on Government websites) are asked to contact Simon Brennan urgently, if they have not already done so.

An email will be sent later today to outline specific arrangements for those working from home.

Enquiries

Should you have any questions during this time please email generalenquiries@unity.fcat.org.uk - if you have specific emails regarding subjects or software, please use the email addresses on the website, under partial school closure.