

**COVID - 19 Unity Academy Daily Bulletin**  
**20th 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**

Unity Academy will be closed from today until further notice to all students other than those who are considered vulnerable or families where both parents are key workers. The government sent out the definitive list of key workers at midnight last night. At Unity Academy we need to help ensure key workers are able to carry out their duties to keep us safe and supported across the country. If both parents are key workers, we will offer childcare and schooling facilities. Also if you are a lone parent who is a key worker and who has no other support, we will provide the same facilities.

The list of key workers was included in a survey sent out earlier today, thank you to those who have responded to this. We have a full list of vulnerable students and colleagues have made contact with families who are eligible to ensure they are aware provision is in place. Please do not assume your child qualifies as a vulnerable student – contact will be made by a member of staff in the academy to confirm that you qualify under these arrangements.

Those parents who provided the information in the online form ([link here](#)) today will be able to send children on Monday. We will review this information on Monday and it may be that if you do not qualify, we ask you not to bring your child into school on Tuesday. We have to ensure safe staffing numbers and as such will need to follow the guidance carefully, in particular the notion that children should stay at home if at all possible to do so. Please be aware that if places are not available due to staffing shortages, a place may need to be found at an alternative school.

**Free School Meals**

Circumstances have moved on since yesterday - all children who are eligible for free school meals will be able to collect a hamper for the week from school. We will provide collection times on Monday as soon as we have the details through from catering providers. If you are self isolating, you should not attend to pick up your hamper and should arrange for someone else to pick it up.

**Patience with staff**

Staff are doing everything they can to support at this very difficult time, please be aware that verbal abuse towards staff will not be tolerated, we are trying our best and staff receiving verbal abuse is not helpful. Thank you to the numerous parents that have contacted us with messages of support over the last couple of days.

## **Exams**

The Government announced updates to calculation of grades this afternoon, we will read this carefully and act on it next week.

## **Staff update**

There is no change to report from yesterday.

## **Confirmed Cases at Unity Academy**

We are aware of significant numbers of students and staff who are self isolating. At the time of writing (3:30pm), 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**

Cleaning will continue in spaces of the school open to vulnerable children or those whose parents are key workers.

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

Any children who present in school next week 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.

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](http://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. Over the coming days the BBC will launch a range of national resources, there is also a Facebook group called Plan C which is supporting parents during this time.

## **Enquiries**

Should you have any questions during this time please email [generalenquiries@unity.fcat.org.uk](mailto: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.