

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will no doubt be aware, the Government has made a number of announcements in relation to measures to prevent the further spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The health and safety of our pupils, staff and the wider school community is, as always, our number one priority. As you know, we have been closely following all government guidance relating to the virus. We have also taken all the necessary precautions since the national outbreak to prevent it from impacting our Academy and to keep pupils safe. There are no confirmed cases of any student or member of staff at the academy contracting Covid-19.

**The Government has today announced that schools will close on Friday for all but the most vulnerable children and those children with parents who are deemed to be “key workers”.**

**Therefore, regrettably I have to inform you that we will be partially closing the school from **the end of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** until further notice.**

We are still awaiting exact confirmation from the Government as to which children they will be expecting to be in school from Monday. We realise this is very unsatisfactory for both our families and for school planning however we do expect further information will be made available before the weekend. In the meantime, we would request that if you feel your child will fit in to either of the categories mentioned above please can you return the form to the school office via a paper copy or email by 10 am tomorrow to enable us to facilitate our planning (**we apologise if some parents have already contacted school today, however we would still like this information returning to school as the questionnaire includes additional information**). We understand that we may get confirmation through overnight regarding these groups but please complete the form anyway. We are also still (at the time of writing this letter) unsure whether the key worker category requirements are for one or both parents.

Whilst we understand that this is also likely to cause disruption for those families with children who are required to stay at home, we have robust plans in place so that your child can continue their education during this time. As always, we are committed to ensuring that our pupils receive the best possible education and will be working hard to minimise the impact of the closure on your child's education.

We are ensuring that there are useful websites named on our website

We are looking into setting up a teacher's blog to help with home learning

We will send regular updates of new things your child can be doing from home.

Further information specific to your child will follow. However, in the meantime I would like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Jones

Headteacher