



COVID-19 Letter to parents & Carers 18th March 2020

Following the very difficult decision to partially close the Academy, I would like to provide all members of our Academy community with a brief update.

The health and wellbeing of our entire Academy community is always our primary concern and we pride ourselves on our exceptional safeguarding practices to ensure that all pupils are kept safe at all times. Unfortunately, due to unprecedented levels of staff absence, we opted to close the Academy to pupils in Year 9 and Year 10 with immediate effect.

As an Academy team we felt it critical to support our community through this difficult time and provide continued provision for our younger year groups to support care arrangements and working commitments as well as our examination ready cohorts who are facing an uncertain future given the lack of communication around the current examination season. Up until today, we assumed that examinations will take place as previously scheduled and as such, we needed to continue to prepare all pupils for this critical period. However, we now know that plans need to be made to offer a different route forward for our examination cohorts.

Please rest assured that the Academy will be working hard to ensure that pupils and students remain focussed and supported through this uncertain period.

Despite our best efforts to communicate our decision to parents and carers, I am aware that there have been a number of technical issues relating specifically to parental communication which is a direct result of our present system being unable to cope with the demand placed upon it through our recent communication. As such, we have now provided a different solution for email which should ensure a speedier mechanism for communication with parents and carers and of course pupils. We will continue to monitor our systems and processes and provide regular updates via our social media channels and our website.

Whilst we remain open to pupils in Years 7, 8 11 and 13, we continue to remain closed for those pupils in Year 9 and Year 10. However, our staff are working incredible hard to provide a range of online materials for pupils to access at home via email which I hope pupils have found useful.

Finally, the government have announced that from Friday, all schools will shut for the foreseeable future except for those pupils who are the children of essential key staff and vulnerable pupils. Following today's announcement, we are currently working on plans to implement government guidance in support of those learners and children identified and once these plans are finalised we will provide full guidance to all parents and carers as soon as we are able to.

On behalf of everyone here at the Academy, I would like to extend our gratitude for the thoughtful, caring and supportive messages we have received in what we all know to be extremely challenging circumstances for our Academy and indeed our nation as a whole.



Please look after yourselves and each other by staying safe and keeping healthy.

I will continue to provide further updates on a regular basis via email, our website and social media.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Seymour". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Andy Seymour
(Headteacher)