

Thursday, 19 March 2020

Dear Parent,

Temporary Closure of Paddington Academy

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that all schools in England will close temporarily for most children from end of the day on Friday 20th March. This decision has been taken on the advice of medical and scientific experts in order to manage the spread of Coronavirus and relieve pressure on the health system.

From Monday 23rd March, students' education will continue from home.

By the end of this week we will send you specific details of how this will operate. We have prepared well for these circumstances so that all our students can continue their education from home during the closure. I am extremely grateful to staff across the academy for the way in which they have taken on this challenge.

The Academy will, however, remain open for two specific groups of students:

- Those whose parents are defined as key workers (employed in the NHS, emergency services, elements of the food supply chain or education);
- Those who are particularly vulnerable (if they have an EHCP or a Social Worker).

I would ask that **parents who believe they fall into the category of key workers contact the school** as soon as possible and no later than **12 noon on Friday 20th March** via office@paddington-academy.org so that we can arrange for your child to continue to attend school.

We will be identifying those students who are in the second category and will be contacting their parents separately. If you believe your child falls into this latter category and you have not heard from us by **12pm on Friday 20th March** please contact us on this email address office@paddington-academy.org

The Government has also decided that no external exams will take place this academic year. Over the coming days, they will announce plans for how those due to sit them this year will be able to gain their qualifications. I know how important this will be for our older pupils and we will be ensuring that whatever is put in place can be implemented through the school in a way that does not penalise any of our pupils' places at university or 6th Form.

It may be that teacher assessments and predicted grades will be the main way. If so, it is possible that we will need to justify our assessed grades using pupils' work on paper and in books. For pupils in Years 11 and 13, therefore, while preparation for traditional exams will not be the focus, we are likely still to want to work intensively with them in the coming weeks so that whatever is ultimately assessed for qualifications is representative of each pupil's best ability. **We are also asking for Year 11 and Year 13 students to bring in exercise books, mock papers/ AP papers and hand these into reception on Friday 20th March.**

Over the next few days we will be in a position to update you further and provide additional information on ways we will be able to support your child during this time. In particular we will be finalising how we can ensure that students on Free School Meals will receive entitlement to food. We will be doing everything we can to deliver whatever is required of us by Government.

Office 365.com - home learning

We have robust and detailed plans in place to ensure that all students are able to continue with their learning while the school is closed. In the first instance, we have provided paper packs and resources for all students to take home with them today and we will be continuing to provide learning activities and resources via Office365.com. Your child's

learning and progress is of the most importance and it is therefore essential that your child continues with their learning and studies while the school is closed. Your encouragement, support and guidance will be crucial to ensuring your child's success.

All academy students have their own log-in details for Office 365 (office365.com). Your child should access learning resources and emails from the academy via www.office365.com while the academy is closed. Children will have weekly learning activities set by their teachers in SharePoint for them to complete and they have been given a new grey exercise book to complete the activities in (they do not need to complete typed work electronically). Students will continue to be set Hegarty Maths work by their teachers and this will be monitored weekly by their teachers.

Please monitor the work they are completing every week and ensure they are using their planner to tick off the work they have done so they complete all the work set (for every subject). As a guide, we are expecting students in KS3 to be spending at least an hour on each subject. We are expecting KS4 and KS5 students to be spending at least 3-4 hours a day completing set work, independent study and assignments.

We are entering times of further uncertainty, speculation and concern and our responsibility as a school, like yours as a parent, is to give our young people the learning, support and reassurance that they will need in the coming weeks. We will continue to update parents on a regular basis with important information as we receive it so please check the school website regularly for information.

Thank you for your continued support and for working with us in the weeks ahead.

Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Yours faithfully,



Peter Jones
Principal

Katie Gillam
Principal

