

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the Government's decision to close schools until further notice, we are putting a number of practices in place during these exceptional times.

As all examinations for Year 11 and Year 13 have been cancelled by the Government due to the COVID-19 measures with immediate effect, Year 11 and Year 13 have finished their schooling.

- Today - Thursday 19th March 2020 will be the last day for Year 11.
- Tomorrow - Friday 20th March 2020 will be the last day for Year 13.

We extend our congratulations to all those students on their achievements and wish everyone great future success in either 6th Form education, work based training or university.

To ease the concern of many Year 13 and Year 11 students, the Academy will continue to work with the Government and the examination boards to ensure that every student gets the grades they need. We do recognise that for many students their performance in their subjects now is better than at the mock exam stage some 3 months ago. We will make sure we raise this issue during the process the examination system follows, in their awarding of grades.

- For the rest of the school the term ends with effect from the end of the school day (3.25pm) on Friday 20th March 2020.

All students will be set work on Firefly throughout the closure period and this will be maintained by teachers from the school until further notice. We are in a time of social distancing, so the school itself will only have a small team on site ensuring essential services continue. However, if in an emergency someone needs to contact the school, then the Academy will publish opening hours for those exceptional needs on its website.

I remind everyone that the Government advice is not to travel unless essential and only then if fully well and not self-isolating. To minimise any need to come to school, we are asking all students to empty their lockers and take their belongings home. Year 10 students, or their parents/carers, who need to get something from their lockers may do so on Monday 23rd March between 9am-12pm only, providing they are well and not in self-isolation.

Mr El Sayed, Deputy Head Teacher has informed all parents and carers of the Firefly arrangements. Within this it will be possible for communication with the teacher leading on the particular work set if the need arises. Work for all year groups will be set for every school day from Monday until the end of the closure. Work will not be set during the Easter holidays.

It is important to state that the Academy staff are working during the closure providing work through Firefly and continuing with essential activities on the campus itself. Staff who are not at school, as we all are socially isolating, will continue to work at home.

Processing of Year 12 admissions and Year 6 into 7 transition will continue with regard to administration but there will be no organised school events until further notice.

Music aptitude applications will continue, but the test and audition stage will be delayed if schools are not open, until further notice.

The Academy will remain open for its own students who are children of key workers and where supervision at home is not possible. More details on those identified as such will follow once the Government has informed us of the mechanism.

Please keep an eye on the website as notices and letters will be published there, as well as being sent to parent/carers through MyEd.

We wish everyone to be safe and well in these exceptionally worrying times, and as a school at the heart of the community, our support for the measures to keep all of us safe is at the centre of our actions.

Kind regards and best wishes

Mr D Brown
Head Teacher