

17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you can see from the letter from the Trust, we are currently unable to ensure that we can safely run the Academy this week, given the advice that has been shared from the government regarding self isolation. We are aware that already, well over half of our staff are required to self isolate at this time as I am sure many of you have been told to, and many more are joining the list on a daily basis. Over the rest of this week, we will be taking stock of who is available to work and what service we may be able to provide.

At the very least, we will be taking steps to ensure that we communicate work via email to ensure your children can continue to learn at home.

It may be that we are able to partially open the Academy in the coming days but for specific year groups only. Obviously, if we can, we will prioritise students who have external exams due this year ie Years 11 and 13, however, it is not at all clear that we are able to do this at the moment, and any actions we take may also be affected by further government advice.

I will, therefore, aim to ensure that you receive regular updates from myself or my Leadership Team over the coming days to ensure that at least you know what we are trying to achieve.

In the meantime, please accept my apologies that we have had to take this decision at this time. Please do encourage your child to engage with work that is set and - if you have to remain at home too - please do try to enjoy supporting them in their work. The advice is not to worry that you cannot be a surrogate teacher for your children, but to get involved and help them engage with the work just as a parent.

Myself and my team will communicate by parent email and then ensure that our communications are posted to our website. This should therefore give you a check to ensure that any communications you receive are genuine. Please do check for updates on a daily basis as things are obviously moving very quickly all the time at the moment.

As regards free school meals - we continue to look in to whether any contingency is forthcoming from the government. In the meantime, I would like to refer you to the list of food support that was published in last week's newsletter.

#### OPEN Academy

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Mark, our Chaplain will be sending out thoughts and prayers on a regular basis which we hope you will share with your children and families to keep you going and I look forward to keeping you up to date as we face the challenges of COVID-19 together as a community at least in spirit.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Ford', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jon Ford  
Principal  
Open Academy