

20 March 2020

Dear Families

May I first offer my best wishes to you all in these uncertain and challenging times. I hope that you and your families are able to stay safe and well, and that you are all able to get through the next days, weeks and months with your health and well-being intact. As a school, we will attempt to always be a point of contact for all of you and our community. We will be open for the children of key workers and those who have individual needs or vulnerabilities; however, if you require any support at all, please do not hesitate to contact us on the numbers and emails at the end of this letter. We will do everything in our power to support you.

Plans from Monday

On Monday, the academy will be closed to anyone other than vulnerable students, learners with individual needs and the children of key workers. The full list of key workers can be found on the Government website – we have text this link to all parents. If you think that you or your child qualify under these conditions, please complete the online form that has been text through to all parents. If you are unsure, please phone reception and ask for advice. If you do not meet this criteria, school is closed until further notice. We will not be able to admit your child to the academy until the restrictions are lifted and we are back to our normal operational capacity.

We will be providing lessons for our usual timetabled hours; the academy will be open at 7.45am, learning will start at 8am and we will finish at 2.50pm. Please note that the academy site will not open until 7.45am – there will be no student access before this time.

Free School Meals

If your child qualifies for free school meals, we will be delivering food vouchers to you for Morrisons supermarket. Instructions for how to use this will be enclosed with the vouchers. You will receive £15 per child, per week. You will receive two week's (£30) worth of vouchers to begin with, which will take you up to the end of the term and the beginning of what would have been our Easter holidays. This will be based on our FSM register and you will automatically receive the vouchers – you do not need to register with us or do anything. I will be in touch with further information about the arrangements for subsequent weeks.

We have also made links with a local group, the *Vulnerable Citizen Support* organisation. If you need any support with food, clothing, baby items or anything else, please contact Haydn on 07549 618859, or contact school and ask for Alison Collins or Phil Grayson.

Students completing work from home

All students who are having to stay at home will be provided with work. In most cases, this will be online learning platforms, such as *Hegarty Maths* or through resources shared through our online SharePoint portal. We will text details and links to this and teachers will be emailing students to set work, request work for submission and contact students who have not completed work. We may also contact you in the next couple of weeks to notify you if we have yet to receive any work from your child. I anticipate that this work will be accessible from Monday morning – I will keep you updated. If you do not have internet access or a personal computer or laptop, we can post a work pack home to you. Please contact school if you would like us to organise this. Year 7 email addresses will be posted home – students will have to log on for the first time and set their passwords – instructions to do this will be included in the letter.

What to do if you are a key worker / have a vulnerable child and you are currently self-isolating

If you are a key worker, or you think your child meets the requirements for a vulnerable learner but you are currently in self-isolation, we will accept your child at school as soon as your self-isolation period is complete. Please complete the online form or contact the school if you fall in to this group.



Fraudulent email warning

It appears a number of fake emails are being circulated with a message similar to the below:

“If your child’s school is closed and your child is entitled to free school meals; then send your bank details to the school and they will help you with funding while schools are closed.”

Beware that this is a new take on a very old but simple and very effective fraudulent scam. We will **NEVER** ask you to provide your bank details in such a manner – please immediately delete any emails of this nature.

Contact with the Academy

As always at Unity, we are a team and we will get through this together with the support of our families! We will be in touch with you regularly throughout this time. The most efficient form of contact is likely to be text message and through messages on our website; however, please also be aware that you may receive calls from academy staff on ‘no caller ID’ numbers and, if you need to speak to someone, you can call reception during office hours on 0113 2630110. Outside of office hours, please use the following emails to communicate with our teams:

For general enquiries: info@dixonsua.com

Child Protection / Safeguarding issues: Ms Rothenburg - grothenburg@dixonsua.com

Curriculum: Ms Burmo-Rothenburg – KBurmo-Rothenburg@dixonsua.com

Serious concerns: Mr Carr – dcarr@dixonsua.com

Finally, I want to wish you all the best and let you know that we are here to serve our community in whatever way possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you, or someone you know, needs support. For me, this is not just about education anymore; this is about doing our civic duty and us all looking out for one and other as human beings. Take care of each other and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Danny Carr
Principal

