

18 March 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

## **Update as of 3pm Wednesday 18 March 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will no doubt be aware, the Government has today advised that schools in England should close as a precautionary measure to prevent the further spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

We take our duty of care extremely seriously and every decision is made with the best interests of your young people in mind. **We have therefore taken the decision to act upon the government's advice and will be closing the Academy from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until further notice. As you will note, this period includes the Easter holiday which will run from 1<sup>st</sup> of April until the 19<sup>th</sup> of April.** At this time we do not have a confirmed date for when young people will be asked to return to school. However, we will keep all parents and carers updated as we receive further direction from government.

We are assessing our capability in continuing to provide education for the young people of essential key workers. If you are a key worker it is really important that you complete the following survey via the link to ensure we can gain a clear picture of key workers within our community.

<https://forms.gle/WLkhw85H79izqetn7>

If you have identified as a 'Key Worker' requiring your child to continue to be in school, the academy will be open [on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>](#) (for normal school hours).

We will be contacting some families directly in the coming days, to invite certain groups of children to continue to attend.

This is an incredibly challenging time for every one of us and the health and wellbeing of our students and young people is our first priority.

In these extraordinary times, education must remain a 'close second', as, above anything else, it enables children to become the best version of themselves; to go on and have successful lives. We are committed to continuing to provide a meaningful curriculum through this period and have robust plans in place.

Education and learning should, indeed must, continue to be part of their daily routine. Education should be the 'golden thread' through our students' lives at this time. Continued learning will provide a structure to students' days, stimulate them academically and bring relative normality to their routines.

We ask you kindly to read through all the key information that is available to support this via the website:

<https://www.cityacademynorwich.org/home-learning-support>

Please read all documents fully within this area to ensure you are familiar with the expectations and systems we have set up as an Academy. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

I should like to reiterate that the current NHS advice is:

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

1. New continuous cough and/or
2. High temperature

3. If you have symptoms, stay at home for 14 days
4. If you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms
5. If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days.
6. If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.

The most up-to-date advice and information for the public can be found at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

We should stress that there has been no case linked to City Academy Norwich to date that we have been made aware of.

As you will expect, there are likely to be further changes to our approach during the coming days and weeks. We are very grateful indeed for your support and understanding as this situation evolves. I am confident parents and carers will support us in ensuring learning continues at home.

Since becoming Headteacher of CAN I have been seen how the school and surrounding community is immensely resilient, it is times like these that bring communities together and I am confident that we will come through emerging stronger still.

**'Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.'** J K Rowling

Yours sincerely



Mr P Collin  
Headteacher