

CITY ACADEMY NORWICH

24 March 2020

Update as of Tuesday 24 March 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

This is my sixth letter to parents on the subject of the Coronavirus Covid-19.

1. City Academy Norwich is now closed and only providing child care to key worker families

As you are aware, City Academy Norwich is now closed as per the government edict. Gavin Williams, Secretary of State for Education has stated:

- Schools will be closed except for children of critical workers and the most vulnerable.
- We must ensure NHS staff are able to access school places. Don't take a place you don't need.
- Be responsible. Keep your kids at home. #StayHomeSaveLives

We are currently able to offer emergency childcare for key workers who qualify, but you must register and provide proof of eligibility to safeguarding@cityacademynorwich.org. We are not offering 'drop in care' and if you send your child without registering or if you are not eligible, we will expect your child/ren to be taken home immediately. This care is in constant review and will be available as long as we can possible sustain it.

2. GCSE and A-Level exams

Over the weekend, HM Government made further announcements about how exam grades will be awarded. More information can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced?fbclid=IwAR2gOZeHDb4v2HJ0V0tbRT6wbU053RLmZg_QvYwg_UA_26MX3AShVj6hLoE

Whilst the way that grades are going to be awarded is now clear, the mechanisms to facilitate this are not yet confirmed. We currently have no information other than what is included on the link above. Please do not contact your child/ren's teacher/s to discuss possible grades etc. with them. All staff have been instructed not to enter into discussions with parents\ carers on this issue as it could be prejudicial. Once the official mechanism is announced, I will be in touch again.

3. Year 11 'rites of passage'

May I take this opportunity to pay tribute to our Year 11 students. It was distressing to be saying goodbye to your children last week, partly because it was so early in the year and partly because they have been such a wonderful group of students to know, the outpouring of warmth and affection from staff was plainly evidence of that. Irrespective of what happens in the coming months they have been one of our best ever year groups, we are enormously proud of them and will continue to do all we can to secure the recognition they so richly deserve. I will be writing to each of them to let them know that personally.

During this unprecedented time of a school closure we thank all parents and carers for your continued support as we aim to provide as much clarity and information as possible during this time. The lessons we will be providing students with, will be focused on consolidation tasks and applying existing knowledge. Irrespective of any examinations, this is education and that should not stop for anything.

All information regarding our home learning programme is accessible via the CAN school 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 totally understand how upset Year 11 students are that the usual end of term rites of passage that they look forward to, had to be cancelled. I have received emails asking if I will allow Prom to go ahead, or other events. The

answer is simple; it is only right and proper for me to follow the advice from HM Government on social distancing. At this time no further events will take place until it is safe for these restrictions to be lifted. We are however, looking to move Prom to the new academic year so that we can all celebrate the successes of our students when we are permitted to do so by the government.

Our advice to Year 11 is keep working. Priorities should be,

1. Any subjects that you hope to take next year.
2. Any subjects that have ongoing coursework. These may still be used to award grades.
3. All other subjects because all knowledge is powerful and the more you have, the better.

If you have BTEC course work as a part of your subjects we would ask you still to complete this as much as possible and email your teachers for advice and guidance. There is a strong possibility that this will still play a part in your final grade and should therefore be completed as if you were still in school. For all creative subjects, you would need to take guidance on tasks from your teachers, as most of your books are in school and we recognise that resources at home are limited for most.

Free School Meal update

For those students who receive Free School Meals, we have issued today the 24th of March 2020, via email and or text the ability to download a digital vouchers for major supermarket chains of your choice. This voucher for £11.75pm is for a total of 5 days. We will issue a further vouchers over the coming weeks, during term time to support families. The current offer of Free school meal packed lunches which are being collected Mon-Fri from 12-13:00pm from main reception will stop on Friday 27th of March and be replaced by the voucher system.

If you have to come into the Academy, please keep the following points in mind:

- The Academy is now running with a skeleton staff, as such, please avoid visiting us in person if possible.
- Reception remains open but is being operated remotely, therefore answer phone messages will be picked up but there is no staff member in person to assist you directly in school.
- Observe social distancing and stay 2 metres away from other people at all times.
- Children of keyworkers who have booked emergency childcare must report directly to the Academy main entrance daily to sign in your child\ren.
- Please do not be offended by our refusal to shake hands or for visitors to use our toilets.
- We may ask you to leave deliveries outside.

Where can you quickly access updates about the Academy?

- I will continue to write updates as long as it is possible weekly to update you all.
- Our Coronavirus student access page is continually being updated - <https://www.cityacademynorwich.org/student-access/home-learning-support>
- We will share key government messages on our social media pages; Twitter - @CAN_Academy and Instagram cannoracademy; Facebook – City Academy Norwich.

These continue to be very challenging and worrying times for us all. I implore you to follow all the advice given by HM Government, it is only together that we can beat this.

Thank you for your continued support. Stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Collin
Headteacher