



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

Birmingham Street,
Walsall,
West Midlands,
WS1 2ND
Tel: 01922 720558
Email: postbox@bluecoatacademy.org
Website: www.bluecoatacademy.org
Principal: Mr D Smith

2nd April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Closure Update

Following on from my last update, the school will remain closed until further notice. As advised by the government, we continue to do all that we can to stay open for the children of key workers and children with certain needs. As part of the national guidance, children need to stay at home and comply with stricter regulations which were announced by the Prime Minister on 23rd March. Some answers to frequently asked questions in regards to this can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by text message, on our website and through social media channels. There are no timescales on when this is likely to happen at the moment.

Your child's learning is of course important to us and we will continue to help your child to learn by using online platforms to set appropriate work. Please encourage your child to access work regularly. This type of learning can be very intense and so we'd advise that students work for 2 – 3 hours each day, access work from all of their subjects and take regular breaks throughout the day. We are not expecting all of the work to be completed in one go and we know that students will have to establish a routine to work round access to the internet, to take turns when they have brothers or sisters trying to complete work as well, while also coping with the distractions of being at home together at this time. All students have access to Show My Homework, which will be used to direct them to resources to use at home.

Show My Homework can be accessed directly at:

<https://bluecoatcollege.satchelone.com/school/homeworks/calendar>

or via a link on the school website at:

<https://www.bluecoatacademy.org/staff-links/student-quick-links>

If there are any issues accessing Show My Homework please email homework@bluecoatacademy.org



Students need to be proactive in making sure that they can access work, during this period of school closure. If your child does not have access to the internet, please let their Head of Year know as soon as possible so that we can make alternative arrangements for offsite learning. We have setup email addresses, which will be monitored throughout the closure period if you have any queries:

Year 7: hoy7@bluecoatacademy.org
Year 8: hoy8@bluecoatacademy.org
Year 9: hoy9@bluecoatacademy.org
Year 10: hoy10@bluecoatacademy.org
Year 11: hoy11@bluecoatacademy.org
Sixth Form: hoysixth@bluecoatacademy.org

We are also regularly updating our website with additional learning resources and advice for parents at this difficult time. These can be found using the following links:

<https://www.bluecoatacademy.org/staff-links/e-learning>
<https://www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/advice---support-for-parents>

If your child usually receives free school meals, we have now registered for the national voucher system. The parent/carer of all eligible pupils will automatically receive a voucher via email, this is for £15 per week, per child to use in major supermarkets. The vouchers issued on 1st April will cover the first week of the closure (week commencing 23rd March) and a second voucher will be issued early next week to cover the week commencing 30th March. If we don't have an email address, we will be chasing these up over the coming days. **There will no longer be an option to order and collect meals from school.**

While it has also been announced that no external examinations will take place this summer, we are awaiting further details of how grades will be awarded to year 11 and 13 students. A separate letter relating to this is available on the school website:

<https://www.bluecoatacademy.org/admin/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Letter%20to%20Y11%20and%2013%20Parents%20and%20Carers.pdf>

We are living in very challenging times and I appreciate that it is difficult to deal with the ever-changing situation. The restrictions in place are making it more difficult for us to address some of the issues as quickly as we would like to but please rest assured that we are aware of concerns and will do our best to resolve them. We are working to refine the processes we are using to improve the home learning experience. Please keep a regular check on the school website for updates.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours faithfully,



D. Smith
Principal