



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

Including Berryfields Primary

COLLABORATING *for* EXCELLENCE

PARENT GUIDE TO SCHOOL CLOSURE & REMOTE LEARNING

17 March 2020

In light of the rapidly developing situation around the COVID-19 virus, we have decided to create this bulletin to keep you informed of any developments to help ensure up-to-date, accurate and helpful information which will explain what we, as a school, are doing to support you, students and the community during this period.

What is the position for the school?

The school is open and will stay open until we receive further guidance from The Department for Education or Public Health England. The DfE advise that schools **should not close** in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

We have no known cases of COVID-19. There may be guidance in the coming days, weeks or months to close the school in line with the governments 'delay phase' but this instruction has not been given to school yet.

What happens if someone in my family develops symptoms?

All students, primary and secondary, should be sent to school unless they have one or more of the following symptoms:

- A new and continuous cough
- A temperature above 37.8°C

If one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days.

All absences should be reported in the usual way by calling 01296 428551 or emailing the absence team on attendance@theacademy.me . **Please state in any voicemail messages or emails whether you are self-isolating.**

What is happening to trips, visits and after school clubs?

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our overseas trips to Seville and Orlando, Florida. The government have advised against all visits overseas with children under 18 until further notice. We have had to cancel our upcoming trips to Warwick Castle with Year 7, The Brilliant Club and the Year 10 languages trip to Oxford University. These decisions have been made following the government's advice to avoid "non-essential visits".

Primary school clubs will be cancelled from Monday, 23 March until further notice as these are "non-essential".

Our Year 4 residential to Green Park is being reviewed and we will update you nearer the time.

What about parents' evenings?

We have taken the decision to cancel the Year 9 Parents' Evening on 12 March, Year 11 Parents' Evening on 19 March and the Awards Evening on 26 March. This decision has been taken because parents evenings can be very busy with over 300 people and the government's advice is to avoid "gatherings and crowded places"

What is happening in school?

- We are open as usual and will stay open while possible until directed to do otherwise by The Department for Education or Public Health England.
- **The end of the primary school day will be staggered from Wednesday, 18 March for pick-ups by parents:**
 - Years R, 1 and 2 - 2.45PM
 - Years 1 and 2 - 2:45 PM
 - Years 3 and 4 - 3:00 PM
 - Years 5 and 6 - 3:15PM
- In the past two weeks, we have taught lessons to every student on the COVID-19 outbreak, good hygiene and how to prevent the spread of the virus.
- This week we have delivered assemblies to all students on what will happen if we close regarding their learning and how to access resources and lessons remotely. We have also reminded them about good hand hygiene. We have done this also to prevent rumours with inaccurate information about what is likely to happen and their responsibilities to one another in the school community.
- We are encouraging students and children to wash their hands when they arrive at school, before break and lunch and between lessons.
- We have closed the school gym due to the frequent contact individuals will have with the equipment.
- All soap in the students and staff toilets are anti-bac and are constantly refilled.
- In the canteen, we will wipe the fingerprint scanners with anti-bac wipes after every use.
- There will be no assemblies in the primary and secondary phases from now onward.
- All non-essential visits to the school by visitors have been cancelled.

What will happen if a student becomes ill in school?

If a student becomes ill in school, they will be taken to the medical officer, Ms Ripley. If necessary, we will call you to inform you of their illness and ask you to collect them or for your permission to send them home.

In an emergency, we will call 999 (if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk). If they demonstrate any of the symptoms above, we will advise them to avoid touching people, surfaces and objects and be advised to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when they cough or

sneeze and put the tissue in the bin. They may be asked to be in a room out of the way until they can be collected.

What can you do as a parent or carer?

- While the school stays open, keep us informed if your child will be absent for any reason.
- Ensure that your child checks Show My Homework regularly for work set by their teachers.
- Make sure that they have a quiet, warm and comfortable place to study.
- Read the Parent Bulletins.
- Contact us if you have any concerns.

What will happen to teaching and learning in the event of a school closure?

A letter will be sent home to all parents via parent mail which will include a section informing parents that classwork will be set for them during the school closure and that children will be expected to complete work on every school day until the school reopens.

- **Secondary Phase:** school work will be set daily on Show My Homework. Students will receive an activity for every lesson they have each day. This may involve activities such as reading, watching a video followed by a note taking activity and a quiz. These will be updated every day to reflect a students' typical day.
- **Primary Phase:** a daily email will be sent with details of work to be completed at home. Workbooks and a brief explanatory letter have been sent home for a small number of students who we know do not have good internet access so that they are able to complete work daily from these books.
- Regular communication will be take place via parent mail and SMS with reminders to direct children to SMHW/Parent Mail.
- There will be regular updates on the homepage of the school website with links to all the online platforms we use to set homework and revision.
- This week, all students are being given stickers with all their log in details for Office 365, GCSE Pod and Show My Homework.

What about before and after school provision in primary?

- We will remain open as long as possible.
- If food sources become reduced, we will endeavour to still provide children with a snack. We will notify parents at pick-up of food provided if this doesn't meet our normal expectations.
- Please notify us if your child is unable to attend as this will affect our ratios.

What will happen with exams?

Like all schools we have an existing detailed contingency plan to deal with any disruption to exams *other*. Ofqual, the regulator for examinations has issued us this guidance: *'We recognise that students, parents, schools and colleges will be concerned about the possible impact of coronavirus on the 2020 summer exam series. Ofqual's advice at this time is to continue to prepare for exams and assessments as normal.'*

Ofqual continues to work closely with exam boards, other regulators and the Department for Education to plan for a range of scenarios, as the public would expect. Our overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum'.

We will continue to liaise with Ofqual and will update you when we have more information.

What if my child is eligible for free school meals?

Aylesbury Food bank have confirmed that a parent of a child entitled to free school meals will be able to receive a voucher for a food parcel that will cover 3 days. They will, however, only be able to receive a voucher from an authorised support agency. Details of relevant local issuing agencies

are given here: <https://aylesbury.foodbank.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/433/2015/06/Voucher-Agencies.pdf>

If this situation changes, we will keep you informed.

Who should I contact if I have any questions?

- If the school is open, contact 01296 428551 and choose the appropriate option on the menu.
- During school time and at all other times, please use enquiries@theacademy.me This email will be monitored throughout the school day while the school remains open and will be monitored constantly in the event of a closure.
- There will be regular updates on the homepage of the school website.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and patience.