



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

Including Berryfields Primary

COLLABORATING *for* EXCELLENCE

PARENT GUIDE TO SCHOOL CLOSURE & REMOTE LEARNING

BULLETIN No. 3

26 March 2020

Thank you all for your collective effort so far! The response by students and children working at home has been very impressive. By 8:30 am on Monday, 23 March 80% of students had logged on to Show My Homework in the secondary.

The majority of Primary pupils have been working their way through this week's work and some have even sent us photos of them completing the tasks. Thank you for this - we will share them in due course.

We know that this a very challenging time for all families and it is so encouraging to see such community spirit. If you have any stories of hope, inspiration and success that we can share with other families, we would love to hear about them and include them in this bulletin. They can be tips for home learning, activities that children can do at home or even just some positive messages for everyone out there. Please contact enquiries@theacademy.me

What is happening in school?

AVA continues to be open for children of critical workers, vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans where appropriate and necessary. The full list can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We have sent a text and email to all parents to notify us if they are one of these 'key workers' as outlined by the government. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision. **Please remember that both parents need to qualify as key workers to access school provision. In single**

parent families, only one key worker is required unless the other parent is able to provide childcare.

Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care.

We cannot guarantee we will be able to supervise these identified children at school indefinitely and we have been asked to use our discretion about how long we maintain this provision.

These children will be expected to come to school from 8:30-3:00pm every day. We cannot accommodate students who will only come for parts of days.

Should one of these children develop symptoms, we will follow the normal procedures, contact you and send them home.

Will the school still close for everyone at Easter?

No. At the moment, the current request from the department for education has asked us to remain open for the children mentioned above. We will update you if this position changes.

What about learning from home?

As we mentioned in our previous bulletins, classwork is being 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 is being 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. **We have had some feedback that some students have been overwhelmed by the amount of work already on Show My Homework which means that it has become a little unmanageable for some. We have discussed this with staff and aim to be more consistent in our expectations and will adjust to make the deadlines more realistic and achievable to keep students motivated.**
- All **secondary** students have been given stickers with all their log in details for Office 365, GCSE Pod and Show My Homework. If you are having trouble accessing these, please contact enquiries@theacademy.me

SECONDARY REMOTE LEARNING TIMETABLE:

Year 7-8

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	PE
PE	English	English	English	English
Science	Drama	Science	Science	Science
Music	Geography	History	Geography	History
Spanish	IT	Art	Spanish	DT

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	PE - core
PE - core	English	English	English	English
Science		Science	Science	Science
Option subjects:				
Enterprise Health and Social Media Studies PE / H&F Religions Studies Geography DT Hospitality and Ca Music Engineering	Computing PE / H&F Religious Studies Triple Science Art DT Spanish History Drama Engineering	Enterprise Health and Social Media Studies Triple Science Geography Spanish Hospitality and Ca Drama Music	Computing Media Studies PE / H&F Religious Studies Art DT Hospitality and Ca History Music Engineering	Enterprise Computing Health and Social Triple Science Art Geography Spanish History Drama

- **Primary Phase:** a weekly email will be sent with details of work to be completed at home. Workbooks and a brief explanatory message 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.

What about Free School Meals?

A reminder that if your child is eligible for benefits tested Free School Meals (not Universal Infant Free School Meals), a packed lunch can be collected from the school until Friday, 27 March, from 1230-1300. Please come to the student reception at the front of the secondary building where we will check your child’s name off the list. In order to minimise waste, lunches will be made to order when you arrive. Children will receive a sandwich, a piece of cake and a piece of fruit.

From Monday, 30 March, we will no longer be providing packed lunches from the school. Instead, we will be making a cash payment to a parent’s/carer’s bank account, which is intended for the purchase of food for your eligible child/(ren).

The amount we will pay is £2.50 per day for Secondary students and £2.30 per day for Primary students (unless the Government advises us to pay a higher amount) for any days that the school is closed. (Note: this does not include the Easter holidays.)

The first payment of £12.50 for Secondary students or £11.50 for Primary students will be made week commencing Monday, 30 March. From week commencing Monday, 20 April we will then make payments every fortnight, of £25.00 for Secondary students or £23.00 for Primary Students.

You will shortly receive an email asking for necessary details which we will need to process these refunds. These emails will be sent from the following email address: avacoms@theacademy.me and you will be asked to reply to accounts@theacademy.me

In light of the email scam highlighted below, please do not respond with your bank details to any other email address.

If you have any questions about this or any other issue, please contact enquiries@theacademy.me

Free School Meals scam:

Some schools have already reported that parents/carers of children in receipt of free school meals are being targeted by fraudsters. Fraudsters are targeting families, emailing parents/carers with messages such as 'If your child is entitled to free school meals, send your bank details to the school and they will help with funding while the school is closed'. The email contains fake links for the parents/carers to follow if they want to receive this funding.

Concerned parents/carers or anybody with information about coronavirus-related scams are being asked to email trading.standards@bucksandsurreytradingstandards.gov.uk (preferable) or by phone on 01296 388788.

What is happening with Exams?

The Secretary for Education has stated that the exams, including SATs, have been 'cancelled'. We are awaiting further clarification on how all students will receive a grade in Year 11 or 13. In the meantime, we have asked all staff to submit predicted grades (we call these Most Likely Grades) for all Year 11 and 13 students which is based on work completed in class, mock exams and what we think they would have achieved in their exams. These will help to inform the final grades awarded.

We are aware that students often 'raise their game' prior to the summer exams and perform better than they would have done in previous mock exams. We will take this into account when recording these predicted grades.

Further guidance from the Department for Education on the cancelled exams can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

To help with this process, Year 11 and Year 13 BTEC students will be contacted shortly by Curriculum Leaders to complete any outstanding coursework at home, where possible. It may not be possible to complete coursework where specialist equipment is required. In these cases, we may have to rely on an estimated grade for these units.

In the Primary Phase all children have recently been assessed formally using our assessment tool - Pixl. This allows us to have a regular, up to date assessment of children from Year 1-6. In Nursery and Reception observations and assessments are saved on '2Simple'. This also allows us to have the most recent data recorded.

What about my references for college applications?

Your future pathways are very important, please continue to apply for your Post16 places. Add Mrs Leach's name and email (rleach@theacademy.me) as the reference and she will make sure they are completed for you.

Will there be Year 11 Leavers' Hoodies?

Yes! We know some of you are feeling disappointed with the way you left school and feel you may not have the special memory makers that previous Year 11 students have had. All Year 11s should have received an email from Mrs Leach who has thought about the logistics of this happening and has been in touch with a few companies. The companies that make leavers hoodies are still operating so if you would like a hoodie, send Mrs Leach an email acknowledging your interest, name on the back, colour (black, green, grey, purple, red, pink, orange) and size (S,M,L,XL). I will then get back to you with pricing. rleach@theacademy.me

Will there be a Year 11 Yearbook?

This is the one that is quite impossible to complete now we are not in school. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer you all a Yearbook this year but that does not stop you all from creating your own personal yearbooks as keepsakes.

Will there be a Year 11 Prom?

Prom **will** still go ahead just **not** on the original date of 19 June. We are looking at moving the date to October and having the Prom as a Prom/Reunion. I will inform you of the date over the next few months once we see what is happening. If you haven't signed up for the prom and wish to join us in this celebration then please log onto Parent Pay to sign up.

What about Year 11 and 13 Results Day?

We are still awaiting confirmation from the government about when you will receive your results. As it stands we believe this will still be in August but again, we will let you know as soon as we find out.

What about Parent Pay refunds?

We have outlined below the steps we are taking to refund you with any sums you have paid to the school via Parent Pay. Refunds mentioned below will be paid directly by Parent Pay to the bank account the payment was received from.

- A refund will be arranged for all children with a credit balance of £1.00 or greater on their catering account. For those with a balance of less than £1.00, this will remain as a credit available for use when the Academy fully re-opens.
- For students in Years 6, 11 and 13, a full refund of their catering account will be given, regardless of amount.
- Secondary school trips organised by the History, Geography and Performing Arts Departments will be fully refunded.
- Payments received for the Year 11 Prom will be fully refunded.
- Primary school trips, specifically the Slovakia match, the Royal Opera House and Green Park trips will be fully refunded.
- Parents have been advised separately regarding the Secondary school trip to Florida.

- There will be a further communication regarding the Secondary school trip to Seville as soon as we are clear whether the trip will need to be cancelled or postponed.
- We are hopeful that the Year 6 visit to Manor Farm (next academic year) will still run and are delaying making a decision at present.

We are currently working closely with Parent Pay to arrange these payments and would expect these payments to be transferred to bank accounts week commencing Monday, 30 March.

We are also aware that a number of parents will have paid for some services with cash and others will have paid for services such as Berrycare (both breakfast and after school sessions) through other channels. We will be in touch with these parents directly to arrange refunds.

Please rest assured that we are working hard to ensure that funds are transferred back to parents at the earliest opportunity.

If you have any questions please contact Sean Hickey, Finance Manager, by email sean.hickey@theacademy.me

Is there anything else we need to know?

Public Health England have issued the following advice to schools to share with parents: *You will no doubt have heard that the Prime Minister reinforced the single most important action we can now all take, in fighting coronavirus - **to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives.***

The campaign to raise awareness of this message has launched across TV, radio as well as digital and social channels.

Every Mind Matters has now released expert advice and top tips on how to look after your mental wellbeing if you need to stay at home during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. It also includes guidance if you're feeling worried or anxious about the outbreak.

Please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

Learn about the government response to coronavirus on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). For further health information and advice please visit [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus).

Thank you for your ongoing support.

How will we be told if the school re-opens?

Parents/carers will be notified **by the school** via:-

- Email
- Text
- Announcements on website

**Thank you for everything you are doing at this difficult time in support the children at the Aylesbury Vale Academy.
Stay safe.**