

19th March 2020

Parents/Carers
TQEA Students

Dear Parents/Carers

As you know, we are all facing extraordinary challenges at this time and the situation is placing pressure on all parts of society. Our staff have been doing all they can to keep our academy open, or partially open, since this crisis began and I would like to pay tribute to their remarkable commitment. They have been extraordinary and we will continue to play our part over the coming weeks.

As you may be aware, the Government made several very important decisions yesterday evening (18th March) about schools. There will be further detail to follow but I wanted to ensure you had as much information as possible as early as possible.

The first is that it has advised schools in England to close, except for certain groups of children, from this Friday afternoon (20th March) onwards as a further measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. No date has been set for when schools will re-open for all students.

From Monday, this academy will continue to be open for the following groups of students:

- **Children whose parents are frontline workers** – the Government has said these would include NHS staff, police, school workers and supermarket delivery drivers. However, others will be in this category and we expect to hear more from the Government on this in the coming days.
- Those classed as what the Secretary of State described as “**vulnerable children**”. These include those who have a social worker assigned and those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

For students in these groups, we have also been asked to remain open through the Easter holidays and we will do our best to achieve this. From Monday 23rd March and through this period, our academy will provide care and some education for these children.

As soon as I have more information on the above groups, I will share it with you. In preparation for this I attach a form that asks that you to identify if you fall into one of the above key worker groups. If you believe that your occupation MAY be highlighted in the extended list expected later today, please make us aware of your role so that we do not have to come back to you to collect this information. In order to assess demand, we need this information to be provided by noon tomorrow (Friday 20th March).

Children who do not fall into the groups listed must remain at home with appropriate care. You will have no doubt seen that the Government have advised that children should not be left in the care of elderly relatives so we ask that you please bear this in mind to best protect our community.

We will remain open tomorrow to all year groups except year 8.

The second key announcement is that tests and examinations will not take place this summer. For children and young people, who have worked so hard to prepare for their SATs, GCSEs or A levels, this may be upsetting, and we sympathise with them. At the same time, we understand the decision the Government has made and we are reassured that children's grades in GCSEs and A levels will be awarded on the basis of moderated assessment (we haven't received the full details of this yet but it may include work undertaken for the remainder of this academic year), in conjunction with the examination boards and Ofqual. This means that the hard work students have done and will continue to do will be rewarded. It may not feel quite the same, and nor is it, but they will receive grades that will progress them to the next stage of their lives.

We will continue to provide home learning resources for your child: Information and access is via the home page of the TQEA website www.tqea.org.uk. Please address any technical queries to s.knight@tqea.org.uk and we will seek to assist.

We are working quickly with our catering providers, and taking account of Government advice in order to continue to provide for any students identified as being entitled to Free School Meal students. We will release further details as soon as we are able.

In the meantime, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Wilson
Executive Principal
TQEA