



Bluecoat Beechdale
Academy

Belong, Believe, Achieve

Wednesday 18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Updated partial closure of Bluecoat Beechdale Academy

Earlier this week I took the decision to close the academy to year 9 students, due to significant staff absence related to the government's guidance around COVID-19 symptoms. Since then, more staff have had to self-isolate due to the onset of symptoms in themselves or someone they live with. This has put the academy under increasing pressure, so I have decided to extend this closure to year 10 students. Therefore **the academy will be closed to all students in years 9 and 10 until further notice**. All other students should continue to attend as normal.

As you can imagine, deciding which year group is the next to be affected by the closure has been difficult, but this decision was based largely around the supervision of older students: Year 9 and 10 students are of an age where most parents/carers would be prepared to leave them at home unsupervised for a period of time. In these circumstances, this should enable parents/carers who work to continue to do so, without needing to take time off to look after their children. Students in years 7 and 8 are likely to need parental supervision, so the impact on the wider workforce and the community would be greater. Students in year 11 are closer to their exams therefore we are prioritising their education in school for as long as we can.

This partial closure is as a result of the guidelines around self-isolation. There are no confirmed cases of coronavirus within the school, but a significant number of staff are self-isolating where they - or somebody they live with - have symptoms.

The health and safety of our pupils, staff and the wider school community is, as always, our number one priority. As you know, we have been closely following all government guidance relating to the virus. We have also taken all the necessary precautions since the outbreak to prevent it from impacting our school and to keep pupils safe. This has included limiting visitors to the school site. In line with this, we would ask that you only visit the school site if absolutely necessary, and communicate with us by phone or email instead.

Whilst we understand that this further closure may cause disruption for you and your family, we have robust plans in place so that your child can continue their education

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during this time. As always, we are committed to ensuring that our pupils receive the best possible education and will be working hard to minimise the impact of the closure on your child's education.

Work has been uploaded to the website for all Year 10 students to complete during the closure. This includes a range of online resources which students can use if they have internet access, alongside work linked to their knowledge organisers. We have also ordered bespoke revision resources for all year 10 students, which will arrive at the academy tomorrow. We will text parents with details of when these resources will be available to collect.

Those students in receipt of free school meals are welcome to come to school to collect a 'grab bag' between 11.30am and 12.00pm every day for the rest of this week.

We will continue to update you via the website and text messages where appropriate. However, in the meantime I would 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,

Mrs S Bailey

Principal