



Bluecoat Beechdale
Academy

Belong, Believe, Achieve

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carers,

Partial closure of Bluecoat Beechdale Academy

Following the new advice issued by the government yesterday in relation to COVID-19, we have had to enact a partial closure of the academy. This means the academy will be **closed to Year 9 students only until further notice**. Students in other year groups should continue to attend as normal. Enrichment for Year 7 students will be cancelled until further notice, so all students will finish at 2pm on Thursdays.

As you can imagine, deciding which year group is affected by the closure has been difficult, but this decision was based largely around two key facts: Year 9 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 would be greater. Students in years 10 and 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 new 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 may cause disruption for you and your family, we have robust plans in place so that your child can continue their education 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.

Bluecoat Beechdale Academy
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Archway Learning Trust
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Work has been uploaded to the website for all Year 9 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. If your child does not have their knowledge organiser, please contact the Academy and we will send one out for you.

Year 9 students are welcome to return to school today at 12.30-1.00pm to have a hot meal. We are currently working on a plan to support those students who receive free school meals whilst they are unable to attend school.

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

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