



Dear parents / carers

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday evening of another national lockdown, I wanted to give you an update. So far, the guidance for schools that has been released by the Department of Education is:

'Going to school, college and university'

Colleges, primary (reception onwards) and secondary schools will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other children will learn remotely until February half term. In the circumstances, we do not think it is possible for all exams in the summer to go ahead as planned. We will accordingly be working with Ofqual to consult rapidly to put in place alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly.'

This means that The Whitley AP Academy has closed for the majority of pupils. As before, during this lockdown only vulnerable children and children of critical workers will be able to attend school.

- School hours will be 09:00 – 14:10, Monday to Friday as usual.
- The school mini-bus will not be used to transport pupils to and from school.
- Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education health care plans (EHCP)
- Children with at least one parent or carer who is listed as a critical worker are eligible for a school place.

For pupils at home, education will now be provided via remote learning. Teachers will be setting work for pupils via the school website and delivering work packs and study guides to your home. Staff will be in touch with you soon to explain how it will all work.

As during the previous period of lockdown, staff will be ringing at regular intervals throughout the week to complete a welfare check and may ask to speak with your child. We will also be asking parents / carers for an update on the progress with the remote learning. The current guidance is that Primary age pupils should be completing three hours of learning per day and Secondary pupils should complete four hours per day.

We are, of course, continuing to provide remote learning for all Year 11 pupils at this crucial point in their education. The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin

Williamson, is supposed to be making an announcement imminently on the summer exam series. This will have a direct impact on the awarding of GCSE and BTEC awards for our Year 11 students and I will be writing separately to Year 11 parents when we have a clearer idea of what is going to happen and the steps, we will have to take to ensure that our students are not further disadvantaged by the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on their education. It is crucial that Year 11 students fully engage with their remote learning in order for us to best apply whatever guidance comes through for their summer exams. At this stage, we don't know if it will be Centre Assessed Grades - as was the case last year, some formal assessments or a combination of the two. It is therefore of paramount importance that Year 11 not only engage with but do their very best when completing the work provided by their teachers.

I'm sorry I can't provide any further details at this point, but we will endeavour to keep you updated and supported through this next period of lockdown.

Take care and stay safe.



Phillip Hannah

Headteacher

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