



Da Vinci Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy



Headteacher: Mrs. Katie Roberts
Address: St Andrew's View
Derby DE21 4ET
Telephone: 01332 831515
www.davinci.derby.sch.uk
office@davinciacademy.co.uk

Thursday 19 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

In response to the recommendation from the government around COVID-19, I can confirm that Da Vinci Academy will close to all students except those of key workers and other specified groups from and including Monday 23rd March 2020. We are more than aware that school closure will present challenges to individuals and families as well as the country as a whole.

As an Academy, our primary sources of advice are the Department for Education and Public Health England and we continue to act on this advice as it is released.

The Academy's aim is to support students and staff as valued members of our community, and we welcome support from you as our partners at this difficult time. We will continue to update parents, carers and students through our website, emails and Twitter. Please consult these sources for information before calling the school, in order to support our staff during this time.

Please and very importantly, talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure that all children feel supported. BBC News Round has regular updates for younger children and the Young Minds charity has practical steps that older children can take to help with anxiety.

School Closure

School closure is never an easy decision to make but in circumstances faced by us all, this has become a necessity.

All students from Y7-Y11 will be expected to work from home, using the resources provided on Go 4 Schools and via the academy website. Indeed, you may have seen that we have started to upload work in this way to support those students who are already at home. Students will be able to contact staff via email should they require support.

To enable remote working, please check that your child is able to log on to Go 4 Schools and their school email account. Details of how to do this are on our website – click on **Home Learning** on the Home page. If they are still unable to log in, please email adam.blake@davinciacademy.co.uk stating the name of your child and the issue.

Provision for the children of 'Essential Key Workers'

As stated by the government, Da Vinci Academy will aim to support 'essential key workers' through provision of a supervised workspace for their children between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Examples of key workers include healthcare employees, delivery drivers and the police.



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As we are sure you will appreciate, this will be dependent on capacity in terms of staffing, and therefore we will need to gain an overview of how many 'essential worker' parents or carers would make use of this provision in order to support our local community.

If you are an 'essential worker', please email Nicky.tomlinson@davinciacademy.co.uk ASAP to confirm the following details:

Student name

Year group

Parent's essential work role

Yes/ No to requiring a place for your child in school during this national closure

Exam Season

We are aware that Year 11 students and you will undoubtedly be concerned following the Prime Minister's announcement that May and June exams are cancelled. The DfE are working on plans to ensure that students nationwide are not disadvantaged by this international medical crisis. We are closely monitoring Ofqual, the examinations regulator, to ensure we are aware of all changes to examination regulations as they are put into place. We will communicate these to parents and students as soon as we are aware of them.

In the meantime, we recommend that students continue with their studies and the work provided whilst we await further details from the government on how qualifications will be awarded. In particular, we recommend that students complete coursework, as there is the potential for this still to be assessed despite changes to written exams.

Self-isolating or Social Distancing

Please follow the government advice regarding when to self-isolate or employ the social distancing strategy. Details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-homeguidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Over the next two days, if you make the decision that your child needs to self-isolate or social distance and be away from school, then please contact the Academy via email (please do not phone if possible), using the email address: office@davinciacademy.co.uk

In your email, please state your child's name, year and form group and the date of your child's first day of self-isolation.

These are unprecedented times and with our 'one team' school – family partnership, we know that we can continue to work together to support all children. From next week, we may not physically be in



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school together but all our students are never far from our thoughts or any less important to us at this challenging time.

I want to take the opportunity to sincerely thank you for your support; we will continue to update parents, carers and students through our website, emails and social media.

Regards,

Mrs Roberts
Headteacher