



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 8 JANUARY 2021

We have put together a list of frequently asked questions to help parents and pupils through the implications of the current school closure. There is more information on our website which can be found [here](#). If you still have further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at office@davinciacademy.co.uk and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

To the best of our knowledge, this information is accurate as of 8 January 2021 but is subject to change at any time. Please continue to check our website regularly.

For ease of navigation, they have been grouped as follows:

1. School closure from January 2021
2. Vulnerable children and critical workers
3. Exams
4. Home learning
5. Mass testing
6. General other questions

1. School closure from January 2021

Why did the Government close schools again in January 2021?

In response to the rising infection levels, and to suppress the spread of the virus, protect public health and save lives, the contingency framework for education is being implemented. Where the contingency framework is implemented, schools will be limiting the number of pupils on site.

Does this impact both primary and secondary?

Yes – all schools are open only for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers only.

How long are schools closed for?

Schools are currently closed to most pupils until the February half term holidays or as updated in the future by the Government. Please continue to monitor our website and official Government announcements for the latest updates.

My child is entitled to Free School Meals (FSM). Will the school be continuing to provide them?

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals (FSM), the school will arrange for vouchers to cover the first two weeks of term whilst we await Government guidance. If you have not received your vouchers by Friday 15 January, please contact Reception.

What if I am concerned about a child at the school?

If you have concerns about a child at the school, you should contact us as soon as possible. We will do what we can to follow up. You can contact the school Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team on the following

email: safeguarding@davinci.derby.sch.uk or via the school reception as a member of the team will always be on site during school hours.

If you have any **immediate** concerns about the safety of a child during these times, please contact:

Derby Children's Social Care – Initial Response Team - 01332 641172

Careline out of hours- 01332 786968

Police- 101

2. Vulnerable children and critical workers

Who are vulnerable children?

Vulnerable children are those with a social worker, have an EHCP or need support in other challenging circumstances as agreed with school. You will have been contacted directly if you have a vulnerable child and the school will work with you to decide on the best provision for your child.

Who are critical workers?

Critical workers are defined [here](#). Broadly speaking, they are workers who are essential in the national response to this coronavirus. (i.e. NHS staff, the Emergency Services, etc.)

Why are schools being kept open for only vulnerable pupils or for the children of critical workers?

Schools are being kept open for these two groups because either:

- the Government considers it essential that the child is looked after and continues to receive support from their school during this time of closure; or
- it is essential that their parent(s) carry on going to work so that they can support the national response to COVID-19

I am a critical worker. Do I have to send my child to school?

NO. You should **ONLY** send your child to school if there is **NO OTHER** appropriate care available. You **MUST** let us know if you intend to send your child to school so we can plan for them. **ONLY** do so if it is **ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY** for you to go to work and no other arrangements are available. If you intend to send your child, please email: keyworker@davinciacademy.co.uk

3. Exams

Are exams still going ahead?

Under the current circumstances, it is **NOT** possible for GCSE, AS and A Level exams to go ahead as planned this summer. This has been confirmed by the Government.

So what will replace exams?

Right now, we don't know, but Ofqual (the exams regulator) will consult on this shortly and we will be able to provide details in due course. Grades will be awarded by teachers like they were in summer 2020. Other than that, we do not have further details yet?

4. Home Learning

How will my child continue to learn at home?

During this period of school closure, it is vital that they engage with their learning as best as they can.

Years 10 and 11 - all work is provided online through Microsoft Teams and pupils should follow their normal school timetable. In most cases, live lessons will be running so it is vital pupils are ready for their lesson times. This includes a daily tutor time starting 8.55 am prompt.

Years 7, 8 and 9 – work is provided on SharePoint. In addition, a 1-hour live session will be provided via Microsoft Teams every day (Monday – Friday) for all students within a year group. This will include a tutor session.

Year group timings as follows:

Year 7 – Period 1

Year 8 – Period 3

Year 9 – Period 2

It is recommended that KS3 students learning at home follow the same timetable as those in school. Please use this link:

<https://www.davinciacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Student-Timetable.pdf>

How much work should pupils do?

All pupils have access to MS Teams and SharePoint and we would expect all pupils to spend at least 5 hours per day on their learning.

[Please click here for a guide to using MS Teams and accessing SharePoint](#)

If you have forgotten your log in details, please contact reception on 01332 831515 and they will be able to help.

What additional work can I do at home?

In addition to the regular work provided by your teacher or joining live lessons, you can access the following learning platforms:

- [Hegarty Maths](#)
- [Seneca Learning](#)
- [Lexia](#) (if you require any login information please contact Mrs McKenzie or Mrs Atkinson)

The school has also invested in Knowledge Organisers and Self Quizzing Diaries for all students. Unless your child is in school, these will be delivered to all homes week commencing Monday 11th January 2021.

If I don't have a computer or internet access at home, how can I help my child continue their learning?

Almost all of the online learning resources are accessible via a smartphone or an app that pupils will be able to download. If you need help accessing online materials, please email msteams@davinciacademy.co.uk or call reception on 01332 831515.

What if I am running low on mobile or broadband data?

If you are running low on mobile or broadband data, please email mobiledata@leadacademytrust.co.uk and they will be able to help.

Will my child be behind in their learning? How will the school address this?

Unlike the first lockdown in March 2020, the school is much better prepared to deliver home learning. We will do our best to deliver a curriculum as similar to that they would have experienced in school though, of course, nothing can replace learning at school. Once we return, we will do everything we can to ensure your child catches up on the missed time as best as we possibly can.

Will my child's curriculum change next year because of the closure?

That depends on how long the Government close all schools for. If the closure is for a very long time, there may be some impact on the curriculum for next year. We will advise you of this when we have more information and further guidance from the Government.

Whom should I contact if I have any concerns?

In addition to procedures for answering specific queries as above, if you would like to raise any concerns about the arrangements or content of our remote learning offer, please contact Mr Blake. Mr Blake is the senior leader with responsibility for our remote learning offer and will be pleased to help you with supporting your children during this current school closure.

5. Mass Testing

What is the school doing for mass testing?

The Government announced that they will be introducing mass lateral flow testing for pupils and staff in secondary schools from January 2021. These are rapid tests with results available within one hour. These plans have obviously changed but we will be start introducing testing for those on site shortly. See separate communications.

How does it work?

The aim is that all pupils are tested twice on their return to school. These tests should be 3 – 5 days apart. If your child is a close contact of a someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they will be offered daily testing for 7 school days. If they test positive, they will be sent home and you should book a lab based PCR test or use the one the school supplies you with. We will provide further details about this in due course.

When will the school start this testing?

The school will have this operational for staff and those students in school from week beginning Monday 11th January 2021.

Do I have to consent to my child taking part?

Yes – these tests are optional but you are strongly encouraged to take part. They will help identify pupils who are asymptomatic who will then need to self-isolate.

What if my child doesn't want to do it?

You are strongly encouraged to discuss this with your child and take part. If you do not give consent, then your child will not be tested and will be sent home if they are identified as a close contact of a pupil and they will need to isolate as per the Government guidelines.

6. General other questions

My child has applied for a place at Da Vinci Academy next year. Will this closure impact them?

No – There is no change to the school admissions procedure. As far as we understand, the National Offer Day remains 1 March 2021.

What if I need more information?

Please contact us at office@davinciacademy.co.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible. I am sure you will appreciate that we won't always have the answers right now as we await further guidance and instructions from Government, but we will do our best to help you.