



Notice of Partial Academy Closure for Year 8 & Year 9 to take effect from Wednesday 18th March to Friday 20th March 2020

17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

With things changing so quickly with Coronavirus, I wanted to send you the updated health advice and let you know what we are doing at our Academy to manage the situation.

The Government is now providing daily updates on the steps it is taking to help fight Coronavirus and has said **that schools are to remain open.**

Currently, we have a number of staff who are self-isolating from the Academy, this includes some of our long-term supply teachers.

We want to keep the Academy open for as long as possible whilst government guidance still allows this, we are working hard as a community to maintain as much stability for the students' education as possible.

However, there are a number of logistical and staffing issues which now make this challenging on a whole school basis. **We have, therefore, decided to close the Academy for Year 8 and Year 9 from Wednesday 18th March 2020 until Friday 20th March.**

The reason for this decision is that we are prioritising our four exam cohorts (**Year 10, 11, 12 & 13**) and our youngest cohort (**Year 7**) who will **attend school as normal.**

We will ensure that students have work to complete during this period via 'Show my Homework' and Hegarty Maths. Further learning resources will be available on our website.

Teachers have uploaded learning resources to 'Show My Homework'; a continuation of their class learning. Students are also expected to complete 'Hegarty Maths', an on-line learning platform used by the Academy, daily for an hour a day.

Should, for any reason, your child experience technical difficulties whilst at home, please visit www.arkalexandra.org where learning resources can be accessed.

All students are expected to study for five hours per day. Your child's learning will be monitored at key points during each day.

In the event of any further questions, please contact:

- Ms Clark via s.clark@arkalexandra.org for any queries pertaining to Year 9.
- Ms Hodgkin via d.hodgkin@arkalexandra.org for any queries pertaining to Year 8.

We are taking every opportunity to reduce disruption to learning. We will review the situation at the end of the week and parents will be notified about arrangements for Monday.

We will be providing updates on our website and in writing via email.

Please do ensure that your child completes the work set.

The health guidance updated yesterday by the Government now states that;

- The symptoms of the virus are a high temperature **and/or** a new continuous cough. Everyone living with someone showing symptoms of the virus must **self-isolate for 14 days**
- People should avoid unnecessary social contact including not visiting restaurants, pubs and theatres
- From the weekend, pregnant women, those over 70 and those with underlying health issues should limit social contact for 12 weeks
- All unnecessary travel should be limited, and people should work from home where they can.

Information on the stay at home advice from Government is here -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>. NHS guidance is here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for your understanding of the school's decisions in these exceptional circumstances.

Kind regards



Yvonne Powell OBE
Executive Principal



Victoria Cockram
Regional Associate Principal