

DSN/NBA

19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Partial School Opening - From Monday 23rd March 2020

Further to the government statement yesterday I can confirm that from the close of play on Friday 20th March we will close the school for the majority of students, only remaining open for those children of 'key workers', who would otherwise be forced to stay at home. In line with the Prime Minister's announcement, we will also remain open for the 'most vulnerable children', those with an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) in place, or those who have a social worker supporting them. The scientific advice shows that school settings are safe for this small number of children attending, but asking others to stay at home will just go towards helping us slow the spread of this virus.

Whilst the government have not released a full list of key workers for this situation, it is clear that these will be categories of people who need to be able to go to work to support the country's fight to tackle coronavirus. To support our planning over the coming days and weeks it would be useful if you could contact the academy on enquiries@wathacademy.com by lunchtime tomorrow informing us, firstly if your family falls into any of the following categories and secondly, if you intend to send your child into school next week:

- National Health Service
- Armed Forces
- Teachers and Childcare Staff
- Care Home Workers
- Social Workers
- Food Delivery Drivers
- Police Officers, Community Support, Civilian Staff
- Firefighters
- Local Authority Emergency Planners
- Environmental Health Officers

Please note that in order for children of key workers to access this provision in school, then both parents/carers need to be able to evidence that they fall into these categories.

As I am sure you will appreciate the implications of this government decision are far reaching and there are still specific areas in the latest statements to which we do not yet have the full details. However, please be assured that we are in regular dialogue with Leaders within and beyond the Trust to ensure that we continue to provide some form of educational provision for all students, be that in their own home, local school or another location. Also, we are mindful about how we support those young people who were due to sit external examinations or tests in the summer term. It is clear from the latest communications that these tests will not be taking place as planned and we expect further guidance to be released over the coming days about how any teacher assessments will be agreed and validated nationally. We will keep you updated on these developments, but it is vital that the students in Y11 and 13 continue with their studies at home and prepare for any internal assessments that may be conducted in the summer term.

Our priority today is to ensure we can effectively support those students who will remain in school from Monday. To do this I would be grateful for the help of parents whose families fall into the critical or key workers category, the parents of students with an EHCP, and those families currently supported by a social worker. If you or your children are in any of these categories, we require you to contact the school, identifying yourselves and your intentions in terms of sending your children to school next week. This will enable the school to make appropriate arrangements for those children.

I would like to reassure you that staff have invested significant time preparing for this eventuality and plans are in place to ensure every student can access learning resources every day during the closure period. Most of these resources can be found on the school website or via specific learning platforms signposted from the website. I would ask you to work closely with your son/daughter over the coming days and weeks to structure their time during the day to support their continued studies. Please be assured that the leaders and staff in school will continue to be available for contact via specific group email addresses listed on the school website.

Finally, as a Trust we are concerned about the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on students who are currently eligible for benefits-related free school meals. At this time we are keen to continue to provide access to a meal for all those children who would normally benefit from this provision in school. Therefore, each school will provide these children with a 'grab bag' meal available for collection from their local school. Please see the academy website for more details.

I would like to thank you for your continued support at this time and remind you that we will do everything possible to support you and your family through this challenging period. Please note that the current situation is constantly changing and Leaders in the Trust will keep abreast of this and adapt our response accordingly. We will ensure that the communication lines remain open and we will provide regular updates via the website and Twitter feeds.

Best wishes, and I hope you all stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Sutton'.

Mr D. Sutton
Chief Executive Officer
Maltby Learning Trust