

19 March 2020

Dear parents/carers

As you know, we are all facing extraordinary challenges at this time and the situation is affecting all parts of society. Our staff have been doing all they can to keep our academy open, or partially open, since this crisis began and I would like to pay tribute to their remarkable commitment. They have been extraordinary and we will all continue to play our parts over the coming weeks and months.

As you may be aware, the Government made several very important decisions yesterday evening (18 March 2020) about schools. There will be further detail to follow but I wanted to ensure you had as much information as possible as early as possible.

Firstly, I want you to know that due to staff shortages, we will be closing the academy effective from the end of today, Thursday 19 March 2020, until further notice.

Whilst we understand that this is likely to cause disruption for you and your family, we have robust plans in place so that your child can continue their education during this time. As always, we are committed to ensuring that our pupils receive the best possible education and will be working hard to minimise the impact of the closure on your child's education.

To access information on what work to do, pupils will need to access 'Airhead' using any internet connected device and follow these steps:

1. Open a web browser on any internet connected device e.g. Google
2. Type in the address: gat.airhead.io
3. Sign in using their usual academy email address and password.
4. Open Teams
5. Visit the channel for their year group in the Community team

More specific work for a particular subject and their particular class will be added to their Teams class area by their teacher.

Through Airhead, they can also access Email, Word, Class Notebooks, PowerPoint and Excel, as well as all their existing documents via OneDrive.

We have tried, as much as possible, to provide resources that can be accessed and completed on any web enabled device including smartphones and tablets.

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Childcare for Key Workers' Children and Vulnerable Children

The Government has advised all schools in England to close, *except for certain groups of children*, by this Friday afternoon (20 March 2020) onwards as a further measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). No date has been set for when schools will re-open for all students.

The government is asking schools to offer provision for the following groups of students:

- Children whose parents are frontline key workers which may include: NHS staff, police and community support officers, frontline civilian police staff, prison officers and staff, social workers, uniformed staff in Fire and Rescue services, Armed Forces personnel, Highway Agency traffic staff, care workers, teachers and childcare staff, and food/supermarket drivers.
- Those classed as what the Secretary of State described as “vulnerable children”. These could be those who have a social worker or those with EHCPs (Education, Health and Care Plan).

In order for us to plan for this provision, we urgently need eligible parents to inform academies if they will require this by **12 noon on Friday 20 March**. This is available to any single-parent families in which the parent is a key worker and, in line with government guidance, to any two-parent families in which *both* parents are key workers.

To inform us of your requirement, you must complete an on-line form which you can find by clicking on the Academy Closure banner at the top of the Nottingham Girls' Academy website:

www.nottinghamgirlsacademy.org

This must be submitted no later than 12 noon on Friday 20 March.

A link to this is also available on the Nottingham Girls' Academy Website along with a copy of this letter.

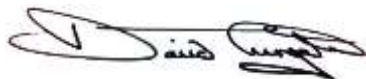
These parents will then be contacted directly by the academy once they have further information.

Free School Meals

For children who receive free school meals, the Government is currently arranging for vouchers and provision of those meals for those children. We are working with the Department for Education to ensure that this happens for all of our pupils who receive free school meals, and we will be in touch directly with those families with more information when it is available.

In the meantime, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Tungate
Principal

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- We strive to fulfil everyone's learning potential. • We value high standards, hard work and a ceaseless desire to improve.
 - We provide a safe, kind, nurturing and inclusive environment. • We enjoy the journey together.

