

**Head of Academy:** Mrs. L Petrie

**CEO:** Dr. B Mabey

19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils**

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers, for example:

- NHS workers involved in clinical work such as Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics, Ambulance Drivers
- Teachers and Nursery Staff
- Armed Forces Personnel
- Firefighters and other related staff in the Fire and Rescue Services
- Local Authority staff (including Environmental Health Officers etc)
- Police Officers, including Community Support Officers, Highways Agency traffic officers and some civilian staff
- Prison Service Staff and Probation Service Staff
- Social Workers, Educational Psychologists and Therapists employed by Local Authorities or NHS
- All workers involved in the production, distribution and retail of food

We will be seeking to offer a supervision (rather than an education) service for the children of these key workers. We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories.

Please follow this link to complete our online form **by 3pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** if you fall in to one of the categories above and need to send your child/ren into school next week: <https://tinyurl.com/WashwoodKeyWorkerInfo>  
This link is available on our website and has also been sent out via text message.

We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure exactly which pupils this does apply to.

**There are no expectations that your child has to attend and their attendance figures will not be affected with any decision you make. We simply want to make you aware that should you need our support the school will be open and available to you.**

**We will also stay open to our vulnerable pupils, and we will be contacting these families directly.**

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March onwards.**

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this occurs. We will keep you informed of any developments on our website and via text message, including any changes to our re-opening date. It is essential that you check our school website on a daily basis for updates – [www.washwood.academy](http://www.washwood.academy). Please make sure you have provided your current contact details to Main Reception on: 0121 675 7272 or via email to: enquiry@washwoodconnect.com, to ensure you receive our correspondence.

**Educational arrangements: What we'll continue doing while your child is at home**

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

To reduce the closure's effect on our pupils' education, we have prepared alternative work provisions for pupils to complete at home. Work booklets have been sent home with most pupils and/or posted and made available on 'Show My Homework', over the period of closure. In addition, pupils will have access to the 'Times Tables Rock Stars' online Maths APP, and Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils may continue to use 'Google Classrooms' if this is already part of their studies. Log in details for 'Show My Homework' are being posted out to pupils. If you have difficulty logging on, please contact school by email or telephone.

### Primary Pupils

Primary pupils have been issued with work packs to complete at home and further work will be uploaded onto 'Show My Homework'. In addition, pupils have access to a variety of online learning platforms which all of the children have been issued with and have knowledge of. In the event that your child has been off school, all parents will receive postal packs containing further information for Show My Homework.

### Key Stage 3

Year 7 and Year 8 pupils have been given a work booklet with work from every subject. This is also available on 'Show My Homework'. Teachers may also set additional work on 'Show My Homework' so please check this regularly. Furthermore, pupils can communicate with their teachers via 'Show My Homework'. It is advised that each day students carry out:

- 3-4 hours working from the study booklet and completing any work set on 'Show My Homework'.
- 1 hour of self-quizzing from their knowledge organisers.
- At least 30 minutes reading a book.

### KS4

Pupils will have work uploaded onto 'Show My Homework' on a daily basis. They are to follow the instructions on 'Show My Homework' with regard to how and when to complete this work and how it is to be submitted. Some work will be online submission so teachers may read it. Other work is to be completed in an exercise book. Some subjects already use Google Classroom for online work; these subjects will continue to set work for pupils in that way. Remember that students can communicate with their teachers via 'Show My Homework' and 'Google Classroom'.

One of the pieces of work for each subject will receive teacher feedback in the form of a whole class overview sheet which will be posted on 'Show My Homework' or 'Google Classroom'. The homework instructions will identify which piece of work this will be for and what the submission deadline for that task is. It may not be the regular class teacher that sets the work for the class.

Pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 will be set work for their subjects on the following days:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 9	English	Maths	Science	Business Studies	Media
Year 10	History	Languages	IT/ C.S	Health & Social Care	Art
Year 11	Geography	Religious Studies	Sport DT	Child Development	Music

During the course of a week, pupils are expected to spend the following time studying for each subject:

English: 5 hours; Science: 4 hours; Maths: 5 hours; Religious Studies and other Options subjects; 2 hours each.

## Sixth Form Students

Students in Sixth Form will have all of their work for the week uploaded on 'Show My Homework' or 'Google Classroom' on a Monday. Students will be expected to manage their time, working through the tasks set by the teacher, as well as revising previously taught content and carrying out academic reading for the subject. Students will be expected to submit/ upload work according to deadlines set by the teacher. Teachers will give students feedback on work that has been submitted online. Please remember, students can communicate with their teachers via 'Show My Homework' and/or 'Google Classroom'.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the safety of our pupils and staff. If you need to contact the school for any reason during this period of closure, you can do so by emailing us at [enquiry@washwoodconnect.com](mailto:enquiry@washwoodconnect.com). Alternatively, you can call us on 0121 675 7272. We will continue to keep you informed during the closure and update you with any new information about our re-opening date. Please remember to check the School website for regular updates.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

### What we won't be able to go ahead with:

- › School trips
- › Breakfast or after-school clubs
- › Events
- › Off site curriculum such as swimming and sports fixtures
- › Internal exams or tests (more information about awarding grades for Y11 and Y12 students will follow in the next few days).

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with us as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

**Despite these arrangements, please remember to continue to follow government advice in terms of isolating any household for 14 days where symptoms of a new persistent cough, or high temperature are present in any member of the household.**

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](https://www.nhs.uk/111).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Petrie  
Head of Academy