



20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Covid-19 Update - School Closure

As you know we are all facing extraordinary challenges at this time and the situation is placing pressure on all parts of society. Our staff have been doing all they can to keep our school open since this crisis began and along with the Wade Deacon Trust and our Local Governing Body, I would like to pay tribute to their remarkable commitment. They have been extraordinary and we will continue to play our part over the coming weeks.

As you may be aware, the Government made several very important decisions on Wednesday 18th March about schools. There will be further details to follow but I wanted to ensure you had as much information as possible as early as possible.

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

From Monday, the school will continue to be open for all the following groups of students;

- Children whose parents are classed as key workers – please use the link below to access the list of key worker roles.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>
- Those classed as what the Secretary of State described as vulnerable children. These would be those who are young carers, have a social worker and those with EHCPs.

Students DO NOT need to wear school uniform **School will start and end at the normal times**

Please be aware the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

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We Seek the Best



The government has stated the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. We are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children.

Please follow these key principles;

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

I hope you will recognise the difficult times schools and teachers now face. We are called on to provide emergency childcare at a time when many teachers' first thought will be to remain with their families and children. It is essential that we will all pull together to support our emergency services and key workers and you can do this by minimising your call on our limited resources. Therefore, children who do not fall into the groups listed above should remain at home with the appropriate care. There may also be partners who work from home or other non-elderly family members who could provide childcare support. I must stress schools are closed for public health reasons and the provision we are putting in place is an emergency measure only. Please support our staff and each other by respecting the need for key workers to have access to appropriate childcare at this time.

Students who are at home can continue to learn from home. All students can find work by using the link which is available on our school website in the News section (look for the Coronavirus Update). Work will be provided in all subjects over time. We ask all parents to urge your child to engage, if possible, with the following online platforms – Hegarty Maths, Seneca Learning, Educake and BBC Bitesize. These are accessible on any device connected to the internet.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

In terms of safeguarding we are continuing to monitor the safety and welfare of our students. Should you have any concerns during the period of closure you should e-mail Safeguarding@halewoodacademy.co.uk.

This account will be monitored regularly during the closure period. Please note staff will not be expected to respond to these e-mails during the scheduled Easter break.

Free Schools Meals and Food Provision

Those students who receive a free school meal will be able to collect this from a number of locations. This information is not available as I write this letter. Please keep an eye on the school website and our social media platforms for information. Those students who are in school will be provided with a meal as normal whether they receive Free School Meals or not.

GCSE Examinations

The second key Government announcement is that GCSE exams will not take place this summer. For Year 11 who have worked so hard to prepare for their GCSEs this will be upsetting, and we sympathise with them. At the same time we understand the decision the Government has made and we are reassured that children's grades in GCSEs will be awarded on the basis of moderated assessment, in conjunction with the exam boards and Ofqual. This means that the hard work students have done will be rewarded. It may not feel quite the same, and nor is it, but they will receive grades that will progress them to the next stage of their lives.

The school careers adviser, Mrs MacCallum, will still be available throughout the duration of the closure by email to offer advice to students and parents. She can be contacted at lmaccallum@halewoodacademy.co.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that our website and our social media accounts will be used as the official method of communication during the period of closure to ensure reliable and clear communication from the school.

Website: <https://www.halewoodacademy.co.uk>

Facebook – Halewood Academy / Twitter - @HalewoodAcademy /

Instagram - halewood_academy

Finally, 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 Gary Evans
Principal