



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers

School Closure from Friday 20 March

As you may have heard, yesterday the government announced that all schools must close to the majority of pupils due to the Coronavirus. The information contained within this letter is based on the information currently available from the government. We expect further announcements imminently and will advise you of any further developments tomorrow.

We realise how disruptive this will be to families, and we will be aiming to provide reassurance and guidance while the school closure continues.

Key Workers

We fully support the aim to keep NHS and other essential staff available for work by keeping their children in school. The government is updating its definition of key workers. These are people who – in these unprecedented times – are needed on the frontline. So, of course that means those working in the NHS, in care homes, in the police and fire service – and teachers. But it will also include people who are involved in retail delivery and those suddenly manufacturing equipment such as ventilators - in order to try to help keep the country at least partially open. When we have further guidance as to which groups of staff are defined as key workers we will be in further communication. Clearly, it will be a challenge to have this in place by Monday, but we will act as soon as we have advice. Please can you complete [this google form](#) to enable us to have an idea of the numbers of students we are expecting to have in. We have asked secondary students to fill this out on your behalf please check their response and update if applicable.

Vulnerable Students

Mrs Martin and Mrs Luke will be in touch with parents of students who are considered vulnerable to invite them in from Monday. We will also be sending out some guidance regarding safeguarding during the period of school closure.

Expectations

What we would say is that students in all year groups, including Year 11, should keep working during the school closure. This will have two beneficial effects – it will ensure they complete content that may be helpful in the future (particularly when moving on to another phase in their education, such as **Secondary transition, GCSE or A level**), and secondly because it keeps students in the habit of learning.

Many students find it takes a while to get back into the rhythm of learning after a school holiday, let alone during a school closure that could last months. We will be providing students with work to complete on Tapestry (Reception), Seesaw (KS1) and Google classroom (KS2-4), and we would urge them to keep their excellent work habits going. Students should check what work has been set for them on google classroom before they contact staff by email. I also think that keeping a structure to the day can have positive mental health benefits at such a unique and difficult time.

We are awaiting information from government and examination boards on a range of issues. Please rest assured that when we receive this information we will react swiftly and communicate with parents/carers as soon as we can, and that our plans will have the best interests of our students at heart.

We will continue to monitor the situation very closely and, of course, will keep parents/carers in touch of any changes to the procedure.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Bishop
Principal of Secondary

Miss M Heppell
Principal of Primary



ASPIRATIONS
The Aspirations Academies Trust
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