



The Albion Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

We have all had to quickly adapt to new daily routines and ways of living. We know this situation is temporary and the crisis will pass. As many of you are aware from the latest information provided by the government it is currently unlikely that the Academy will reopen to students in years 7, 8 and 9 until September. We will obviously follow the Government's guidance on reopening when the time comes. Please be assured that we are carefully considering the implications and preparing for any reopening prior to this date. For now, the school remains closed until further notice.

As you will have hopefully seen, we have been using the Academy website as the main update and communication portal. We have also introduced a new 'padlet' site to update information as often as possible. Please check these regularly.

Current priorities while the school is closed.

At this time when the school is closed our way of operating has had to change. Like you, we are observing the Government's guidance to stay at home as part of our national effort to reduce the impact of the coronavirus and save lives. We have a skeleton staff in place at school and continue to provide education for a small number of children on a daily basis who need it, including for children of key workers who are so heroically supporting the national effort at this time. We have two main priorities at this time (i) ensuring all pupils are safe and well and (ii) to continue to support your child in their learning from home.

Ensuring all pupils are safe and well

Firstly, to ensure all pupils are safe and well, you will know that we are maintaining contact with you to ensure that we can do whatever we can to support you at this time. Our commitment is that each family will have contact at least once per week by phone. Please use this contact to let us know of any concerns that you think we can help with. This may include letting us know about wellbeing or health issues. In the next call we are really keen to know if you have ICT issues that are preventing your child from accessing the work we are setting.

The Albion Academy

London Street

Salford

M6 6QT

t: 0161 359 5100

e: contact@albionacademy.co.uk

w: www.albionacademy.org



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We have also created a well-being page on the Academy website. This page has links to resources, advice and guidance for students and parents. We are also continuing to be offering a counselling service remotely for students with a link on the well-being page.

Supporting learning

We will continue to set work weekly on Microsoft Teams. We also recognise that no one approach is right for all situations. We have introduced a function for you to request work packs that will be sent home. This is available on the Academy website.

You may also know that we have now launched an 'Albion Live' YouTube station. Teachers are producing video materials to support remote learning on the channel. These are accessible from mobile devices. Details will follow as soon as these are ready to launch.

We will be setting an online assessment for students to complete in the final week of term. This will help us see where students have consolidated learning. Hard copy assessments will be able to be ordered from the Academy.

We have launched a parent checklist (see website) to support parents to easily see what we set each week for students. These will be on the website each week.

I recognise it is not ideal and that this is a temporary approach and cannot replace face to face teaching. We will continue to work with you as best we can over the coming weeks to ensure that students are supported with their studies as best as possible. I would urge that you contact the Academy for support when needed.

As noted at the outset of this letter, I hope this letter finds yourselves, family and friends safe and well. If there is any way you believe the Academy can offer assistance during the current situation do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Andrew O'Brien
Executive Principal

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Salford
M6 6QT
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