



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.

It is a month since the Government took the decision to close all schools and the country went into 'lockdown'. We have all had to quickly adapt to new daily routines and ways of living.

As you are aware the government has detailed its plans in relation to the phased reopening of schools. The decision to close schools was not taken lightly and equally the decision to reopen schools has obviously been carefully considered. We are carefully considering the Government guidance in relation to the face-to-face support for Year 10 students. We will be contacting you next week with the exact details but would like to note that we are looking forward to seeing our students and supporting their learning.

What is currently clear is that at the end of year 10 students will still be expected to sit full GCSE examinations next year. There is currently no plan to reduce the content or the format of examinations. The current situation is in no way ideal for supporting this longer term challenge for students. Being able to support students in a new format during this period will be essential.

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 require it, including children of key workers who are so heroically supporting the national effort at this time. We have three 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 (iii) preparing for a phased return.

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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.**

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

As noted above, whilst the school will be shortly communicating a new phased approach with Year 10 next week, we continue to set work in the following way.

Staff have been carefully considering the order and nature of work for students to complete. As a result of this in the period of closure we have noted that it is essential for students to complete the minimum 10 hours of work we have been setting each week. This will include English, Maths, Science and MFL of Humanities alongside the coursework for two BTEC options. Individual phone calls to students will outline which subjects to focus on over the next week.

In relation to setting the work

- a) We continue to set work weekly on Microsoft Teams.
- b) We also recognise that no one approach is right for all situations so will be sending essential work packs home for students.
- c) We have developed and launched our own online lessons and assemblies (via YouTube). These are accessible from mobile devices. Details are on the website and student teams drives.
- d) We have launched a parent checklist to support parents to easily see what we set each week for students. These are on the website each week.

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I recognise it is not ideal and that this is a temporary approach and cannot replace face to face contact. 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 to yourselves during the current situation do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Andrew O'Brien
Executive Principal

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