

20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware the government has made the decision to close all schools as part of their plan to delay the spread of coronavirus. The purpose of this measure is to limit large groups of people mixing together where they could pass on the virus, and slow it's spread. We understand that this measure is important to protect those who are at high risk from suffering severe illness as a result of this public health emergency.

Exams will also no longer be running during the summer; we understand that this will be massively disappointing for those children in Year 11 who have worked so hard for 5 years. The government has stated that they will still ensure that children get the qualifications they need. We therefore would advise that students in Year 11 continue to work on their GCSE subjects in preparation for any alternative arrangements that may be announced.

Despite the closing of the building, we still believe we have a moral duty to ensure that your child receives a good quality education and that we consider the health and wellbeing of the young people and wider community who we serve. Like us, you will be worried about the learning time that students will miss. As such we have put in place a number of plans to ensure that we minimise impact to students:

Student work & learning:

Throughout the closure, staff will be regularly emailing students with work to complete. Work will either be emailed to students directly, or shared via Google Classroom. Students should check their school email daily to check for work being sent, and should where possible try to work to their school timetable at home. Staff will be in regular contact with students to offer feedback about work completed. Where students do not engage in this process, senior members of school staff may contact you directly to help support students to access work. If you have any queries about student work during the school closure, please contact Mr Turvey via studentprogress@uak.email

In addition to staff emailing students with specific work, there are a number of websites students can access to support them with home learning:

GCSEPod (www.GCSEPod.com) is available for Year 10 and Year 11, and offers a range of videos and activities linked to GCSE specifications.

HegertyMaths (www.hegertymaths.com) is a useful tool for practicing key maths skills.

Tassomia (www.tassomia.com) is a Science learning program which offers short quizzes to help build up scientific knowledge.

BBC Bitesize (www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) offers a range of learning activities for students across all ages.

Keeping Your Child Safe:

If you have any non-emergency concerns regarding your child's wellbeing or safety please contact Mrs Petrik-Davies via hpd@uak.email or 07841 020733. If you have a concern about another child's welfare or wellbeing, call Children's Social Care Initial on 01274 435600 (during office hours 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday). At all other times call the Social Services Emergency Duty Team on

01274 431010. If you have an emergency, or if you have reason to believe that a child is at immediate risk of harm, please contact emergency services on 999.

It is also important that your child continues to have high standards of hygiene, regularly washing their hands and observing 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' if they are coughing or sneezing. If you believe your child has the common symptoms of coronavirus, a high temperature and a new, persistent cough, your child should self-isolate for seven days. If symptoms persist beyond seven days you should dial NHS - 111.

Pupils Eligible For Free School Meals:

The government have announced that there will be a voucher scheme for those families eligible for Free School Meals; once we know more details of this we will update our school website. In the interim, from Monday 23rd March till Friday 27th March, the school canteen will be open between 12:00 & 13:00 pm for those who are eligible for a free meal to get their school meal, either to eat in school or takeaway

If you have concerns about providing a healthy diet for your child during a time or prolonged closure, there are a number of food banks in the area which offer support to families who are struggling:

The Salvation Army, High St, Keighley BD21 2LJ, Tel: 01535 603494

The Trussell Trust Food Bank, The Light Centre, 86 Captain St, Bradford BD1 4EL, Tel: 01274 734314

Skipton Food Bank, Newmarket St, Skipton BD23 2JE, Tel: 07856 080194

Keeping you informed:

We will aim to keep you as informed as possible during the period of school closure. The main place to check for updates should be the school website (<https://uak.org.uk/coronavirus-update/>). Here you will find all the key information about student work and learning, keeping students safe, and information about school re-opening. We will also continue to use the schools texting services to keep you informed of any updates.

If you have any other queries relating to the school closure or supporting your child's learning or wellbeing during this time, you can contact the school via email at support@uak.org.uk. If you have any concerns about your child's physical health as a result of coronavirus, you should dial NHS- 111 as a first point of contact.

Thank you for your continued support during this unprecedented time of school disruption. Despite the closure, as a community we can work together to ensure that we minimise the impact to your child's educational journey.

Stay safe and take care of each other!

Yours sincerely

Jon Skurr

Head of School