

18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Partial Closure due for Coronavirus

As you will no doubt be aware, the impact of Coronavirus is being experienced in schools. This has escalated with the new government guidelines for people to self-isolate for 14 days if they or anyone in their immediate family with a persistent cough and/or high temperature. These guidelines have already seen a number of staff self-isolate, which has had a significant impact on our ability to offer a full programme of education in school.

As a result, we have reluctantly taken the decision to implement a partial closure of school. This closure will be for Year 8 & Year 9, and initially be effective on Thursday 19th & Friday 20th March. School will open for Year 7, Year 10 and Year 11 as normal. The school website will be regularly updated with information about the closure, including information about returning to school.

Below are some guidelines to help ensure that learning may continue at home and students are kept safe should this closure become more widespread and prolonged and affect your child:

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 whilst at home. Staff will be in regular contact with students to offer feedback about work completed, especially for those students in Year 11 who are approaching their final exams. Where students do not effectively engage in this process, senior members of school staff may contact you directly to help them access their work. If you have any questions about student work during the school closure, please contact Mr Turvey via email: studentprogress@uak.email

Keeping Your Child Safe

If you have any non-emergency concerns regarding your child's wellbeing or safety please contact Mrs Petrik-Davies via email: 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 (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.

Free School Meals

We want to ensure that school closures do not prevent those students on Free School Meals from having their lunch entitlement. To ensure this doesn't happen, students in year groups that are closed can still come into school between 11:50am & 12:10pm to get their school meal, either to eat in school or takeaway.. If students wish to do this, we ask that they come in full school uniform so that we maintain school and safeguarding standards. However, bearing in mind current circumstances, students who are self-isolating due to Coronavirus should not come into school whilst they pose a possible danger to other students and staff.

Keeping you informed:

We aim to keep you as informed as possible during the period of school closure. The main place to check for updates is 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, links to guidance from Public Health England, and information about school re-opening. We will also continue to use the schools texting service 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: 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.

Yours faithfully

Jon Skurr

Head of School