

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Overnight the government released the list of critical workers. These workers are eligible to send their children to school on the weekdays they are working following the closure of the school later today. The school will also be open to a small number of students who fall into specific groups, as outlined in yesterday's letter.

Included in the critical/key workers list are those who work in health and social care; education and childcare; key public services; local and national government; food and other necessary goods; public safety and national security; transport; and utilities, communication and financial services. Please see the following link for the full list and description of critical/key workers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

While the school will do its utmost to cater for students that fall into each of these groups, please bear in mind that the school will be operating a skeleton staff. The students will not be taught their normal lessons but will, in the main, be completing the work that teachers have set on Classcharts. There will be opportunities for students to do exercise and access a broader curriculum where possible.

Please can all parents and carers follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be, even if you fall into one of the eligible groups. You should only send your child to school if you have no safe alternative and it is as a last resort.
2. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
3. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

The school will be open to eligible students between 8.45am and 3.15pm from Monday 23rd March. There will be no extension to the school day. Students will not be required to wear their school uniform but will be required to bring all necessary books and equipment, as they would for a normal school day. Please ensure students bring some PE kit. School transport will be running a normal service.

Please do not send your child to school if they do not fall into the eligible categories, the school is closed to all other students and we will have to ask you to pick these students up if they arrive on the school site.

As stated in the earlier letter, please contact Theresa Whatley today on info@thedeanacademy.org if you intend to send your child to school from next week, stating why you are eligible.

Many thanks for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher