



Dear Parent/Carer,

16th March 2020

It is with regret that I have had to make the decision to partly close the school to three year groups from Tuesday 17th March. This decision will be reviewed on a daily basis.

Years 8, 9 and 10 – school is closed

Year 7 & 11 – school is open as normal

Firstly, **I can confirm that we have had no cases of coronavirus within the school community.** However, today we are faced with an unprecedented amount of staff absence, largely as a result of self-isolation. This is understandable in light of the government guidelines. It does, however severely impact on the levels of supervision for the whole school community. Although we can, to a certain extent, mitigate the impact of such high levels of absence through cover staff arrangements, we are concerned about how unsettling this level of disruption is for your children and how this will affect overall student health and safety. This is frustrating for us all, but we have put in place a number of pre-emptive contingencies to ensure continuity during this very challenging time. At the present time, the partial closure decision will be reviewed on a daily basis. All students should remain ready to attend school every day, though it is anticipated that the partial closure will continue to affect Years 8, 9 and 10 for the next few days at least. I will be providing regular updates on this and have included details of how we will be communicating with you below.

During the period of partial closure, the school’s Senior Leadership Team will be contactable by email to deal with any queries linked to their departments and areas of responsibility:

	Email	Department	Year group
General	enquiry@city-birmingham.academy	Reception	
Miss Slater	sreid@city-birmingham.academy	Mathematics, humanities	
Mr Muhammad	imuhammad@city-birmingham.academy	MFL, English	11
Miss Chudasama	dchudasama@city-birmingham.academy	Science	8
Mr Coleby	pcoley@city-birmingham.academy	PE, performing arts	9
Miss Lewis	plewis@city-birmingham.academy	Computing/business, pastoral	7
Mrs Fulgence	lfulgence@city-birmingham.academy	DT/Art, safeguarding	10
Miss Breakwell	jbreakwell@city-birmingham.academy	Business, HR	

- Regular updates will be given from our school Twitter account (**@CORECityBham**) and our website (<http://city-birmingham.academy/>). Please continue to check these for further information.
- Students entitled to free school meals in Years 8 – 10 are welcome to receive a ‘grab lunch’ throughout the partial closure period. They can pick this up from reception between 1:20 and 1:50 each day.

Student work during the partial closure period

To limit disruption to learning as much as possible, our contingency plans include students accessing work in different ways:



- Students in Years 7 - 10 have all been given work packs today with this letter. This is in case of closures for Year 7 further down the line.
- Years 9 - 11 are all familiar with GCSEPod (www.gcsepod.com). This is an excellent resource for these year groups and it is highly recommended students access work through this resource. If you have any questions regarding GCSEPod or you have already signed up and need to find your username or reset your password, then please contact us at GCSEPOD@city-birmingham.academy.
- Years 7 - 10 are all familiar with Seneca (www.senecalearning.com). Many of our students have already been accessing homework tasks through Seneca but there is also a wide range of generic work available to them which would be beneficial to their learning.
- Years 7 - 11 are all familiar with MathsWatch (vle.mathswatch.co.uk) where there is a wide range of maths resources available.
- Reading is an activity with immeasurable value to your child during the period of closure. If you have internet access at home, we encourage you and your child to visit www.novelfreereadonline.com which has an enormous number of books which can be read, requiring neither downloading nor payment to access. Of course, if your child has access to other reading material which is not internet-based, closure also presents a good opportunity for them to read for pleasure.
- Students, particularly those in older year groups, should check their school email regularly in order to check for communication from individual subject teachers; many of whom will contact their classes and interact with students using this method throughout the closure period. We will not be able to respond to emails from students from personal email accounts. Students have all been shown how to access their school email account but if they are unsure, they should contact us using the enquiry@city-birmingham.academy email address for extra support.

As per my previous letter, it is essential that parents/carers inform us if internet access is not possible. Work will be posted out in these cases.

We will continue to adhere to Government decision-making on this serious matter and will communicate all updates with you via text message, Twitter and our school website so please do check these regularly for updates. We regret the disruption this period will bring but ask for your support – particularly to those of you whose child(ren) is/are in Year 11 – to ensure that they continue to prepare for their exams as normal. Children should be encouraged and supported to understand that they should continue to engage with their learning. Children working at home should not consider this time as a school holiday.

We are also very mindful of those students who access additional support during school hours including free school meals, mentoring, and general mental well-being support. We will endeavour to provide telephone support to our more vulnerable students throughout the partial closure. The following are some examples of professional services/organisations that families may also be able to access support from:

- Food bank – Emergency food provision – Tel 01722 580 180, <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/>
- Samaritans – 24 hour helpline – Tel 116123, Email jo@samaritans.org
- School safeguarding support: <http://city-birmingham.academy/our-academy/safeguarding/>

Yours sincerely

Miss K. Slater
Headteacher