



1st April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

First and foremost, I hope you and your families are all well. At what is an extraordinary and unprecedented time for all of us, our health is the most important thing.

I'm pleased to report that many students have been engaging in our online programme. This is intended to help students continue learning throughout our closure period and to ensure they don't have too many gaps when we do return. I do appreciate the online teaching can be problematic where there are device and/or internet access issues so would like to stress that students who are having issues are being sent work in the post in addition. Please do get in touch via enquiries@city-birmingham.academy or 0121 729 7100 if you need to inform us of issues you are having.

The online, interactive lessons are a great way for students to continue their learning with the support of an online teacher. Students are also able to access these lessons in their own time as they are recorded and accessible afterwards for the whole class. We are currently revising the online provision following feedback from students and staff and intend to launch the new and improved version from April 20th.

Timetables, help guides, and further support are available on our CORE Connects section of our website: <http://city-birmingham.academy/core-connect/>

Our online form time was also launched this week with great success. Students are able to log in to interact with their form tutor and tutees between 9-9:30 every morning. There is an expectation that students log in to form time at least once through the week as a minimum, but we would encourage students to 'attend' every day!

I am also pleased to report the on-site provision is going well; the students have impressed us with their commitment to their studies. This is providing a vital service for the children of key workers and students identified as vulnerable. Please do get in touch if you wish to access this service.

We are continuing to explore ways in which we can support the wellbeing of students during what is a difficult time for everyone. Their physical and mental wellbeing is vital at this time and we are continuing to signpost different support networks on our CORE Connects pages: <http://city-birmingham.academy/student-welfare/>

If you need access to this information but do not have internet access, please do get in touch.

Throughout the closure period we have made provision available for all students wanting to access their free school meal by collecting a meal from Central Academy. We are hoping to secure food vouchers in the next few days though as we recognise accessing the food from school site during lockdown is proving problematic. As soon as we have an update on the voucher scheme, we will be in touch for those with free school meal entitlement. If in the meantime, you are experiencing issues with accessing food, please do get in touch with us.

This academic year we have been working in partnership with Gas Street Church. They are able to offer local support in a variety of ways eg food or emergency supplies, phone calls of support.



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 @CORECityBham @COREeducate  @coreeducate

Please do get in touch with them if you would like to explore what they can offer: gasstreet.org Tel 0121 622 7034.

Communication is critical for us during this time so please do ensure you use the following to stay up to date:

Website: <http://city-birmingham.academy/>

Twitter: @CORECityBham

Phone: 0121 729 7100 (Calls can also be processed by Central Academy on 0121 729 7160)

Email: enquiries@city-birmingham.academy

At times we are texting parents and carers so it is also important we have an up to date mobile number. If you have not been receiving texts, please do let us know your details.

And finally, a reminder that we break up for the Easter break on Friday 3rd April. Online teaching will continue throughout this week up until the end of the day on Friday and will then re-start on Monday April 20th. I am sure some students will welcome the switch off from schoolwork but if there are any that want to continue over the Easter break, they can access work as previously shared via Seneca and GCSEPod. We would also encourage students to take up the challenges we are setting and also let us know if they would like to set their own challenge to others!

Please do everything you can to keep yourselves and your families safe and well by following all government advice and guidance and don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you need anything.

Yours faithfully,



Miss Slater

Headteacher

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