

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear parents and carers

We want to keep the school open for students for as long as possible whilst government guidance still allows this. We are working hard as a school community to maintain as much stability for the students' education as possible.

However, there are a number of logistical and staffing issues which now make this challenging on a whole school basis. We have a significant number of staff who are self-isolating due to either their own symptoms or that of their immediate family. **We have, therefore, decided to close the school for Year 7 and 8 from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until further notice.** The reason for choosing these year groups is that these year groups are not yet studying for their GCSEs or completing their assessments as in the case of Year 9.

**All other year groups should still attend school as normal.**

We know that you will understand that it is not possible for us to confirm at this stage the exact period of closure for this year group. However, please rest assured that we will open again to these students as soon as is practicable. We will ensure that students have work to complete during this period via SMHW, Hegarty and Seneca. Please do ensure that your child completes the work set. All the students have their logins and work will be set according to their timetables. Students will be expected to login to Show My Homework on a daily basis and complete each lesson's work as per their timetable. Parents will be contacted by their Direct of Learning if they are having difficulties in doing this.

The health guidance updated yesterday by the Government now states that:

- The symptoms of the virus are a high temperature **and/or** a new continuous cough. Everyone living with someone showing symptoms of the virus must **self-isolate for 14 days**
- People should avoid unnecessary social contact including not visiting restaurants, pubs and theatres
- From the weekend, pregnant women, those over 70 and those with underlying health issues should limit social contact for 12 weeks
- All unnecessary travel should be limited, and people should work from home where they can.

Information on the stay at home advice from Government is here

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>. NHS guidance is here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>



# Ark Evelyn Grace Academy

Students in year 7 and 8 who are eligible for free school meals will be able to collect a lunch box from the academy between 12 – 12.30pm. This will be available from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March until further notice.

We will continue to update you on any developments via email/text and with regular updates on the school website.

Thank you for your understanding of the school's decisions in these exceptional circumstances.

Kind regards

Tim Dainty  
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Ark Evelyn Grace Academy

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