

17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope you have all managed to have some pleasant time over the Easter period and have found some of the activities we provided for you enjoyable.

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 we will start again with our remote learning. In our original calendar for this year 20<sup>th</sup> April was scheduled as an INSET day. On 20<sup>th</sup> April we are still setting work and activities for students to complete but staff will not be available to respond to emails and queries throughout the whole day. We will be using the day for staff to meet remotely in their departmental teams to ensure all plans are in place for the coming weeks. This will ensure we can provide the best quality education and support for students and parents whilst we continue to work together through the Coronavirus Pandemic.

You will be getting used to using the 'Leaning Planner' now. Staff will be providing work and support as per the learning planner schedule. Here is the link to the learning planners on the Academy website [Ax@home Learning Planners](#).

Before the Easter period, several teachers trialled using Google Meet to 'keep in touch' and provide academic support for students. This technology enables us to replicate classroom based learning where teachers can deliver new content, identify misconceptions and interact more effectively with students whilst working from home. We will now roll out this technology across the academy, further details will be published in due course.

Please do read 'The Ax@home' newsletter each week. It comes out on a term time Friday and is our primary communication tool with detailed, weekly updates.

We know our parents and students will need some individual, pastoral contact as well however in such a challenging time. For that reason, on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April and if you haven't already had contact from a member of the pastoral team you can expect a telephone call from your child's form tutor. They'll phone to ask how you all are and offer support for student engagement at home. Please be aware that the call that day should come marked 'private number' as opposed to the Academy's normal telephone number. If the Academy is still not open on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 then we will do the same that day and each fortnight - to keep that close community contact with one another. However, please do not wait for us to make contact with you if there is anything you need clarifying or wish to discuss. It is important we keep our lines of communication open as much as possible at this time.

At the time of writing this letter it has just been announced that the national safety restrictions are still going to be in place for at least another three weeks and the clear message '**Stay at Home**' continues to be communicated by the Government. As a reminder, we should all follow these '*what you need to do*' guidelines:

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)

- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- People must stay at home as much as possible to reduce the spread of the virus but you can still go outside **once a day** for a walk, run or cycle. When doing this you must minimise the time you are out of your home and stay at least two metres away from anyone else that isn't from your household
- Do not meet others, even friends or family. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms

As a whole Academy community we have responded 'together' to the Coronavirus crisis. It is important that this continues over the coming weeks. We will continue to support you and communicate with you whenever there are updates to give you. If ever you need anything please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Keogh', written in a cursive style.

Mr D Keogh  
Principal