

24th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

After the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday evening in relation to new, firmer restrictions about staying at home, as an Academy we must ensure that we only have the absolute minimum of staff on site.

The pressures placed on schools to stay open for the children of key workers is in direct conflict with the new restrictions making it increasingly difficult to make decisions as to how to operate day to day.

Government guidance released on 22nd March clearly states: ***Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.***

We will remain open but on the most minimal staffing model we can allow for health and safety reasons and for only the most essential key worker roles and vulnerable students who cannot be cared for at home. If you are unsure how this affects you, please email the Academy at admin@theaxholmeacademy.com and a member of the Senior Leadership team will contact you.

I am sure you will understand that we have a duty of care to our staff team, as well as our students. In light of this, we must keep our staffing and resourcing to the minimum required to accommodate the students we have on site, which can fluctuate daily. I must therefore insist that:

- You use the Activities facility within the SIMS Parents app to secure a place for your child in school by 12noon the day before.
- Your child will not be allowed to remain in school if you have not secured a place for them using the SIMS app. Our staffing on site for the following day will be based on the responses we receive by midday, i.e responds by midday on Wednesday 25th March regarding Thursday 26th March.
- This expectation will start from midday on Wednesday 25th March for the following school day.
- Please contact Nicky Sample on nsample@theaxholmeacademy.com for technical support.

As the spread of the virus accelerates and we face even more acute pressures as a society, I urge you to stay at home and support one another in doing so. **The message is clear 'Stay at Home and Save Lives'.**

I am sure we will have many difficulties to face together in the coming days and weeks and the directives will, no doubt, change rapidly many times and we will keep communicating with you whenever it is needed. I wish you all the very best as we enter a new phase of this pandemic. I do have to say a thank you to everyone in our community who has pulled together so far as we work together through this unimaginable crisis.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Keogh
Principal