

Covid-19. 18 March 2020. Partial and Full Closure

Dear Parent/Carer

Partial Closure Thursday 19th March and Friday 20th March 2020

Further to recent communication we have taken the decision to partially close The Axholme Academy. On Thursday 19th March the Academy will be open for **Years 7 and 8 only**. Work will be set for **Year 9 and 10** to complete at home.

Year 11 students are expected to attend school in the morning for an assembly beginning at 8.30am relating to the Government announcement about their examinations. Year 11 students will then be allowed to remain in school or leave school premises.

Our reason for staying open for Years 7 and 8 is based on the fact that these year groups are less likely to be left alone at home and we endeavour to support parents and carers who are still going to work.

Due to significantly low levels of staffing available, following the government's change in advice for self-isolation – and the ongoing unpredictability of this position – we are no longer able to continue to operate safely.

I want to assure you that this is not a decision we have taken lightly, but a decision we have been left with no other option to take in the interests of the health and wellbeing of all students and staff. My thanks go out to those parents and carers who contributed towards our 'planning for partial closure' survey earlier today. Over 95% of respondents stated that their child could easily work from home if the academy was forced into a partial closure, this feedback has helped to inform our decision.

Full Closure Monday 23rd March 2020

The Government announced at 5.15 pm today that all schools will close with effect from Monday 23rd March. In the same announcement the Government shared information about ensuring the needs of children of key workers and vulnerable students continue to be met. Once clearer guidance is available we will provide an update on this provision.

We are facing an unprecedented situation and time ahead, and we will be monitoring this position closely. We will keep parents and carers regularly updated about the closure and all updates will be posted to the SIMS Parent App and our website and Facebook Page.

At this time we are unclear how long the full closure will be in place for. We will continue to review the situation and update you once we have clearer information.

Access to student learning resources

Our main priority is to ensure that during the closure period, the impact on the education of our students is minimised as much as possible. In preparation for this, all will have access to learning resources for each of their subjects.

As stated in my update letter on Tuesday 17th March if a partial or full closure has to be put in place work will be provided for students by:

- Teaching Staff will use Google classrooms to set work and give feedback on completed work
- SIMs app will be used to set work
- Staff will also set work using other platforms such as GCSEPod
- If you have difficulties, email your subject teacher with questions about your work
- Maintain the standards that you know would be expected if you were working within the academy
- Staff will only respond to an email sent from your Academy email address – do not use personal email accounts.

Contacting the academy

During the closure period, should you have any questions about student work or if for any reason you cannot login or access resources, please contact the academy by email at

admin@theaxholmeacademy.com

All students should aim to follow their normal timetable as closely as possible to ensure they remain on track with their learning.

We will continue to review the situation, and will communicate any changes to parents and students.

Parental support in ensuring students remain on track during this difficult period is much appreciated, and I trust that you will understand the Academy is endeavouring to do it's very best during this unprecedented time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Keogh'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping tail.

D Keogh
Principal