

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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Dear Parent / Carer

It is with deepest regret that I am having to inform you that following the announcement made by the Government yesterday, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, The Gainsborough Academy will be closed from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 for the foreseeable future in response to COVID-19.

The Government announced that schools, colleges and early years settings, nationwide, will be closed to the vast majority of students as part of the country's ongoing response to COVID-19. It is our intention to remain open, in line with Government recommendations, with a skeleton staff providing support for the children of key workers. This is inclusive of:

- Children of NHS staff, police and delivery drivers
- Children who are open to Social Care
- Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Thank you to those of you that have completed the online 'Parental Front Line staff' form. We will be using the information provided to identify the children whose parents are key workers. We will notify you via letter if we think that you fall into one of these categories. If you have not completed the form already and work for NHS staff, police etc. please can you go to the school website where you will find a link to the form or contact school. However, if you have an adult who can be available in the household to provide appropriate childcare please consider other families in greater need who may have both parents working in key front line roles.

It is very important to reiterate that children who do not fall into these groups must remain at home until further notice.

As I have previously outlined it is our civil duty to continue to provide an education to all of our students. Each and every student at The Gainsborough Academy is entitled to continue to receive education whilst they have been asked to remain at home. We have prepared a bank of work for your child to complete whilst absent from school to ensure that student education can still continue.

Expect your child to have the following specific platforms of work:

- Google drive specific to each year group including specific faculty folders. Within these can be found lesson resources and banks of work for them to complete
- Google classrooms for each year group with more specific tasks for them to follow and links to online platforms
- Online platforms including SAM learning and Hegarty Maths
- Paper copies of work may be provided for students without access to a computer at home. Please email requests directly to your teachers - all email contacts can be found on the website

We ask parents to support the school by encouraging children to complete the work set for them online as detailed above. Their teachers will update these work platforms regularly and communicate feedback with your child directly, either through Google platforms or via their school e-mail address. Teachers have had guidance on the various methods of setting work remotely, and in most cases this relies on the teachers and students using online resources in some way. Given

that the majority of students, or families, have some access to internet enabled phones, we believe this to be the best method of communication.

This is not obligatory, but if your child currently has free school meals and you wish your child to continue to access a free school meal, you will need to email the school [admin@thegainsboroughacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@thegainsboroughacademy.org.uk), so that suitable arrangements can be made for you to collect a packed lunch.

We hope you understand that the welfare of both our students and staff has to be our first priority and by taking early action, we will be able to return to 'normal service' as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Anna Leng  
Principal

You can find more information about COVID-19 on

- NHS guidance
- NHS Frequently Asked Questions
- Advice for people travelling
- Guidance for non-clinical settings (education, employers and businesses, social, community care and residential settings)

The Department for Education has also launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

**Phone:** 0800 046 8687

**Email:** [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)