

Dear Parent

It is with deepest regret that I am having to inform you that, following the announcement made by the Government on Monday 4th January 2021, The Gainsborough Academy will be closed from Tuesday 5th January 2021 and will not reopen on 18th January as planned. The spread of the new variant of COVID-19 has led to rapidly escalating case numbers across the country. Accordingly, the government has made the decision to close schools to the vast majority of students.

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 the new variant of COVID-19. It is our intention to remain open, in line with Government recommendations, providing provision for the children of critical workers and those requiring additional support. All of these students were identified over the Christmas break and their parents contacted.

It is very important to reiterate that children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home until further notice. To clarify the school is only open tomorrow for Key Workers where no alternative is available and all members of the household are classed as Key Workers. Where possible parents should keep children at home if there is adequate care or they are old enough and responsible enough to look after themselves. Only when this is not possible should a Key Worker send their child into school. In school provision will mirror remote lessons from Wednesday onwards with students being supervised by support staff in multiyear bubbles accessing work on chromebooks using headsets, this will enable more of our teachers to be actively involved in delivering live lessons to all students at home.

It is our civil duty to continue to provide an education to all of our students. We will continue to provide remote learning provision for all students whilst they have been asked to remain at home. Students will follow their existing curriculum in line with their school timetable. All students should log on to their lessons that will be taught via Google Classroom following their normal timings of the day.

Year	Period 1	Period 2	Break 1	Period 3	Break 2	Period 4
	8:50 am - 10:05 am	10:05 am - 11:25 am	11:25 am - 11:55 pm	11:55 pm - 13:10 pm	13:10 pm - 13:45 pm	13:45 pm - 15:00 pm

A reminder that our remote learning code of conduct for all students is as follows:

- All students should ensure they are on time for their remote lesson to ensure it can start promptly and follow their existing timetable.
- They must only take part in live lessons if the member of staff is present.
- They must ensure that their camera is turned off at all times unless directed by a member of staff.
- They should ensure they are dressed appropriately for learning.
- They should interact with their classmates and teachers as directed and do so appropriately.
- They should ensure they are working from an environment that is quiet and free from distractions.
- All students must ensure they never record any interactions during remote learning.
- All students must ensure they leave the lesson as soon as it has ended. This is to ensure the recording can be uploaded to Google Classroom promptly.

- All students must ensure they only use their video conferencing tools (camera and microphone) if directed by your classroom teacher.
- They should continue to follow the school code of conduct in line with their on-site learning.
- All students are expected to follow their existing timetable.

Live lessons can be accessed via mobile phones, tablets and computers. We have already identified a number of students who have no way of accessing live lessons via any of these methods and are coordinating support.

If you feel your child cannot access remote learning via any of the methods listed above and require additional support please contact admin@thegainsboroughacademy.org.uk

We ask parents to support the school by ensuring all students participate in their remote learning. Students have already missed a significant amount of on-site education and complete engagement is the only way we can mitigate any further learning deficits.

Their teachers will email live lesson links each morning and update Google Classroom with all supplementary resources. We will continue to provide feedback and communicate with your child directly, either through Google platforms or via their school email address.

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 tomorrow via adminsupport@thegainsboroughacademy.org.uk, so that suitable arrangements can be made for you to collect a packed lunch. We will be issuing vouchers as per Government guidelines in due course.

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. We will update examination year students directly when more information is published as we fully appreciate you will also have very specific questions and concerns.

Yours sincerely

Anna Leng

Principal