



17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Many of you will have heard the announcements from the Prime Minister yesterday evening explaining that people should avoid “non-essential” travel and contact with others as well as begin to work from home where possible. As a school at the heart of its community we are fully prepared to support the Government request to remain open but more importantly to provide this service to our families. However, to enable us to forward plan in the event of a full school closure, we request that parents who work in the health service to please make contact with the main office on admin@thebourneacademy.com to inform us of your role.

I am writing to let you know that The Bourne Academy will **NOT** be able to be open to all students tomorrow (Wednesday 18th March 2020). Whilst we do not have any confirmed cases of Covid-19, unfortunately, we have insufficient staff to safely supervise students, therefore, we have taken the reluctant decision to ask **Year 9 students to remain at home until further notice**. We have discussed, in detail, the order of priority for releasing year groups. The rationale for asking Year 9 students to be the first year group to remain at home is that the imminent examination year groups could be at greater academic disadvantage. Parents are more likely to be able to make arrangements with Year 9 students than with Year 7 or 8. However, this remains an ever-changing situation and we will have to make decisions on a day by day basis.

Staff are fully aware of the potential disruption that a partial school closure will have on parents and the imminent exam period and we will continue to monitor this situation. However, you will appreciate that these are unprecedented times and our priority must be the health and safety of our students, our staff and, of course, our wider community.

Please note actions for your information which will come into force from tomorrow:

- **Year 9 will be asked to remain at home until further notice.** Work will be available for Year 9 on Show My Homework from tomorrow (Wednesday 18th March 2020), further work will then be posted every Monday
- Year 9 teachers will be used to cover any staff who are absent owing to the latest Government guidelines
- All UK and international trips are cancelled or postponed until we receive further guidance
- All ACE clubs and internal events will be cancelled or postponed until further notice

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

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- All students in the Academy will be expected to comply with our usual standards and expectations
- Please be aware that due to staff shortages, it may take longer for the Academy to reply to your enquiries

All parents/carers and students can access Show My Homework via the Academy website if you do not have personal login details. Please click on the blue login tab on the right-hand side of the home page. Click on Homework at the bottom, you will be taken to the Show My Homework Access page. From here you can select your child's year group, the subject you wish to look at, and/or your child's teacher, and locate homework set and the expected completion date.

I urge you all to ensure you have read the latest NHS guidance which can be found on our website. Please do not send your child into school to be assessed by our first aid team. You should make a decision, as a parent, about your child's attendance at school and if they are showing any symptoms of Coronavirus they should remain at home and isolated, along with yourselves, for the next 14 days. Please do call the school's absence line to communicate this - the telephone number is 01202 528554 then follow the automated guide.

Please can I ask that Year 9 students do not come to School at the end of the day to meet and socialise with other year groups. I will ensure that I keep you informed of any changes to the above arrangements, however, please continue to monitor our website for further updates.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Avoth

Principal

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