



Ms R Bradbury - MEA Principal

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Dear Parents / Carers

I do hope that you and your families are well, and that you had a restful bank holiday weekend. I am sure that are aware that the Prime Minister and government have begun to outline what the next steps forward are for the country in relation to the coronavirus pandemic, and how schools and education settings will be affected by this. National guidance is still being updated, and is of course subject to change depending on the spread of the virus in the future. However, I thought that it would be helpful to write to you today to provide a brief summary of our current understanding of the changes proposed, and provide some initial information on how MEA will be responding to these changes.

Year 10 and Year 12

For students taking exams next year (current Year 10 and Year 12) the government has said that schools should begin to plan for “some face-to-face time” before the summer holiday, with an earliest start date of 1st June.

We expect further guidance on what this may look like in practice, but we are of course already beginning to make plans, and will contact parents of students in those year groups as soon as we have any more details.

Vulnerable children

In common with the vast majority of schools, we are offering on-site support and supervision for students who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), and for students who have a social worker and/or are in Local Authority care.

If your child falls into one of these categories and has not been attending the Academy, then I would just like to remind you that the provision is there if you need it. To ensure that we follow safe working practices on staffing ratios, however, please provide **at least 24 hours’** notice if you intend for your child to start to attend. The main Academy switchboard is open from 9.30-14.00 each weekday.

Children of key workers

To ensure the continuation of essential services, we are also able to offer places in our current on-site provision to **Year 7 and 8** children whose parent(s)/carer(s) are classed as key workers.

The most up to date guidance on who qualifies as a key worker can be found by clicking on this link <https://bit.ly/3cqEchL> . Again, to ensure that we have appropriate staffing ratios, please provide **at least 24 hours’** notice if you wish your child to start attending this provision.

Please be assured that we will let you know what the next steps are as soon as we have a clear indication of where we go from here from the DfE. Whilst we can’t give you any detail at this stage, just know that we will work together to support you, your children and our staff through the coming weeks and months. Until that point, please don’t worry. We will work out the right approach for our community when more detail is given.

In the meantime, the latest guidance on school closures and reopening plans can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers> - and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

Ruth Bradbury
Principal

