

Headteacher: **Mr P. Quirk**

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Co-op Academy
Failsworth

March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils- Year 7-11

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that we have now been instructed to close the academy to almost all children. This will be in effect from the end of school today, Thursday 19th March until further notice. Currently we have been operating a Year 11 timetable only, this will cease from today and from tomorrow Year 11 will be required to learn from home as per the rest of the students within the academy. A separate Year 11 letter will issued with further guidance and information.

As advised by the government, we will do all that we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs (students with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) in place or any students who are assigned a social worker). We are quickly trying to plan for this today and tomorrow ready for Monday.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means. In order to find out which students the academy will remain open to, we will be sending out a text message to all parents. Within this text a link to a document will be included, where parents and carers can complete a form highlighting if they are a key worker, the place of employment, name and year group of your child and whether you wish to take up the offer we are putting into place. A link to this document can also be found on the academy website. We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this applies to.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from tomorrow onwards.

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by text message, a letter on the website and via the academy Twitter account.

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

In order for your child to continue to their education remotely, we ask that:

- Students log on to ClassCharts where work will be set for your child to complete
- We recommend that your child follows their normal timetable, completing the work set on ClassCharts by each teacher. They should aim to spend an hour on each of the tasks set which will support their learning
- We expect all students to log on to ClassCharts every day and complete the work that has been set. They need to aim to be learning at home for the same number of hours they would be in the academy.
- Please alert us immediately if you are unable to access Class Charts via info@failsworth.coop with the heading Class Charts issues. Please provide the student name and your contact details so we can verify this and support you. This work will allow curriculum continuity so students are not disadvantaged by the Academy closure.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

What we won't be able to go ahead with

- School trips
- Breakfast or after-school clubs
- Events
- Internal exams or tests
- Instrumental music lessons
- Parents evening

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with us as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via info@failsworth.coop

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours sincerely

Phill Quirk
Headteacher