

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Update on the Closure of WMG Academy due to COVID-19

Further to our letters dated 18th and 19th March, we are writing with the latest update regarding the national closure of schools and the plans which are currently in place at WMG Academy.

We have already communicated directly with the parents of students who will be attending the Academy next week. The Government have given a clear directive that students should not attend the Academy, unless they are a vulnerable child or the child of a key worker. We are asking for your support to ensure this remains the case. If you have not received a letter confirming your child's attendance next week, please ensure that there is provision for them to work at home. Similarly, students will not be able to access the Academy's onsite ICT or Engineering facilities throughout the closure period.

Free School Meals

Students entitled to free school meals but who will not be attending the academy can collect a voucher to cover the cost of lunches for one week. The vouchers can be collected between 10am and 12pm on the Monday of every week of closure. The voucher will be valid at Gregg's and a value of £20 per student per week has been allocated.

Ongoing Communication

We will continue to send parents daily updates until 27th March, and twice-weekly updates thereafter, along with relaying urgent messages as and when they are required. All letters sent to parents will also be added to our website at www.wmgacademy.org.uk.

We understand that the uncertainty surrounding this unprecedented situation has a significant impact on our students, their families and their daily routines. As such, we will continue to offer pastoral support to our students remotely. Our priority is to keep our students and staff healthy, safe and supported.

Any enquiries should be emailed to solihull.info@wmgacademy.org.uk. This inbox will be monitored daily and enquires directed to the most appropriate member of staff. Staff will be available to answer the phone between 10am and 2pm, Monday to Friday should you wish to speak to someone.

Home Learning

In the last two days, we have been overwhelmed by the messages of positivity from parents and we value immensely your support. We will continue to do all we can to provide for students working from home. Our teaching staff are committed to supporting them in the completion of meaningful work and will feedback regularly to consolidate students' learning. Like yesterday, we have included a range of information at the end of this letter to help you support your children.

WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Chelmsley Road, Chelmsley Wood, B37 5FD

Reducing access to the Academy for students is never a decision that sits comfortably with school leaders and teachers, but as ever the health and wellbeing of our students remain our top priority. Thank you for your support in this matter and we know that you and our students will do all you can to limit the impact of the reduced access to teaching.

Please take good care of yourselves and those in your local community. As ever, we value immensely your support and ask for your continued patience in this unprecedented situation.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K Tague
Executive Principal



Mr S Tait
Associate Principal

Additional Information and Support Surrounding the Academy Closure

Learning from Home

Whilst your child is away from the Academy we will work hard to ensure they are well resourced to continue their learning and make progress within their subjects. Students will be set work for each subject on a regular basis via Google Classroom. Students should access this in exactly the same way that they do for homework. The work that has been set will direct students to a variety of tasks using on-line learning platforms such as Google Classroom, Seneca, Kahoot or MathsWatch.

Tasks set will be designed in a way that staff will still be able to monitor work and feedback to students via Google Classroom or Gmail. Feedback and dialogue between staff, students and parents is vital to ensure staff can monitor the workload, as well as physical and mental health of our students.

Senior staff with responsibility for the effectiveness of teaching and learning will be continually reviewing the on-line learning. The methods of learning outlined above may need to be amended if the period of school closure is extended or if significant numbers of staff and/or their families become affected by illness. The learning of Year 11 and Year 13 students should continue to ensure routine and consistency given the uncertainty around external examinations.

- **All students**

- All students are able to login to their Google Drive, Gmail and Google Classroom from home by using the RM Unify login page. Visit www.rmunify.com and use the students' normal academy login details.
- By accessing their Google Drive, students will be able to continue with any coursework that is completed online e.g. Y10 and Y11 Engineering coursework units.
- By accessing Google Classroom, students will be able to access any specific subject tasks that are set by the teacher.

- **Year 10 and 11**

- **Year 10 English Literature** - Please refer to Google Classroom, revision workbooks and exam materials are available.
- **Year 11 English Language** - please refer to Google Classroom for past papers and revision resources.
- English queries can be directed to Mrs Shaw, i.shaw@wmgacademy.org.uk .
- **Maths** - Past papers are available on the Mathematics Google Site. MathsWatch tasks will be set on a regular basis. Students have a personal login using the format below:
 - For Joe Bloggs In year 10:
Username: J.Bloggs19@wmgacademy
Password: ilikemaths123
 - For Joe Bloggs In year 11:
Username: J.Bloggs18@wmgacademy
Password: ilikemaths123
- Maths queries can be directed to Mr Naeem, u.naeem@wmgacademy.org.uk .
- **Science** - Google classroom will be used to upload remaining lesson material. Past papers will also be uploaded. Students can also access their digital text book when logging into Kerboodle.
- Science queries can be directed to Miss Islam, a.islam@wmgacademy.org.uk .

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- **Option Subjects** - Specific tasks will be added on to Google Classroom to support any missed content and exam preparation.
- **Year 12 and 13**
 - Sixth Form students are encouraged to make direct contact via email with their subject teachers. This will be the best way to access guidance and subject materials.
 - Each student can still use Google Classroom to access relevant materials.
 - Engineering students should continue to work on their assignments online, using the shared support materials.

Inhalers

We are aware that there is some concern about children having sufficient inhalers, so if we hold a spare inhaler at the Academy you may wish to come and collect this to have at home. Please ensure it is returned to us when the Academy reopens.

Technical Support and Communication

We will continue to update parents via email as the situation evolves and would advise them to monitor our social media sites. If parents have any concerns or require technical support, please email info@wmgacademy.org.uk. This inbox will be monitored daily and enquiries will be directed as appropriate. Please note that phone lines will not be actively managed.

Once again, we ask for your patience and consideration during this continually changing and challenging time. Whilst we are 100% committed to providing an excellent level of ongoing education and communication, we are in an unprecedented situation. Our staff will be working hard to fulfil their working responsibilities, but they will be working in difficult circumstances as they also manage their own childcare responsibilities, their own health and wellbeing and the needs of their wider family members.

Staying Healthy

We are all inundated with advice about handwashing and being careful to not touch eyes, noses and mouths etc. Advice on this is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>. We also feel that mental health is very important given the fact that we are likely to face more time than we would ordinarily in isolation. Advice on this is available at <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>.

Student Support

Increased time together as families and a lack of our normal routine is in itself unsettling and disruptive. We are trying to support some semblance of normality through the setting of work. We do identify that for some students an extended period of time without school is of a concern, given the stability and consistency that school provides. Support for students is available at RM Unify, accessed through the Academy's website.

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