

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

School Closure

As you may have heard, the government announced yesterday that all schools must close due to the Coronavirus. Consequently, Budmouth Academy will close with effect from **Monday 23rd March until further notice**. We will keep you updated with any developments or further news via 'InTouch' and all letters will be placed on our website.

During the period of closure, teachers will be setting appropriate work for all students. I would refer you to my previous letters (on the website) about how we are primarily doing this via Google Classroom. Please note the following important points:

- If your child does not have access to necessary IT equipment, please contact Mr Lydford, plydford@budmouth-aspirations.org
- If your child experiences any difficulty in accessing GSuite from home or forgets their password, please contact our IT support team on either: ITassistance@budmouth-aspirations.org or ITsupport@budmouth-aspirations.org.
- If your household is not equipped for your child to access IT from home, we will endeavour to supply a hard copy of work wherever possible. If this is the case, please contact Mr Hudson: phudson@budmouth-aspirations.org who will co-ordinate this.
- Students can contact their teacher via email for advice about their work during normal school hours. All staff email addresses are available on the website.
- Our expectations of students are that they should try to complete all of the work set by their teachers and they should aim to work from home during normal school hours.

We remain open today and tomorrow for students in Year 7, 8, 11 and 13, as per my letter yesterday. In addition to this, we are also offering any Year 9 and 10 students who were not able to collect their books yesterday afternoon, to come in after lunch tomorrow and do that. If any Year 9 or 10 students wish to do this, they must report outside the front of The Hub tomorrow at 2.15pm where a member of the Senior Leadership Team will register them and explain the process.

Attached to this letter is a reminder of our most important points of contact in relation to your child. Even though the school will be closed, our staff will still be 'at work' whether they are in school, working from home, or even self-isolating. Staff will endeavour to answer any questions you may have.

The government has made announcements about the need for schools to have a limited opening for a small group of pupils in the following categories:

- 'Most vulnerable' children.
- Children where parents/carers are both key workers.

The detail of this has not been shared with schools and we will do so when we have more information. The government is also keen to ensure that children who have entitlement to free school meals can still access this support during closure. Again, there are no details yet on how they intend to do this. We are making some plans of our own, but we await guidance at this stage.

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I am aware of the impact this situation is likely to have on tests and exams. I have children of my own in exactly the same situation who are anxiously waiting to find out. As soon as we have news that we can share in relation to this we will, of course, do so as soon as possible. There is a lot of speculation about different scenarios and how they would be implemented and I think we need to wait for the official and final decisions.

Importantly, we must remember the reason for this closure and I would urge you to follow the latest government advice regarding the virus, which can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Questions

We will endeavour to answer all of the questions that arise over the coming days and weeks. Thank you for understanding that we do not have all the answers at this time.

The following are a summary of the most frequently asked questions so far.

When will schools reopen?

We do not know. We will monitor this and inform you via 'InTouch' and the website.

Who are the 'Key Workers' whose children can still come into school?

This list has not been announced at the time of writing. We will share this when we know.

When this list is available, how can I let Budmouth know that I wish my child to come to school?

We will contact parents via 'InTouch' and provide details of how you can inform us of your employment status and the details of the provision you require

Who are the 'most vulnerable' students who can still access some support?

Our pastoral, SEN and safeguarding teams will contact parents/carers directly when we have reason to believe that access to some ongoing face-to-face contact in school could be very important.

If my child does come to school for either of the above reasons what would the provision look like?

We are in the very early stages of planning this and will share more details with anyone needing to use this provision when we have more information. It will depend significantly on the number of staff who are available during this crisis. Any students coming into school will be required to wear their uniform.

My child is entitled to Free School Meals; will they be able to access lunch during the period of closure?

We are looking at ways that we may be able to do this. The government is also considering the support it can provide and is promising to communicate this to schools. As soon as we hear anything, we will let you know.

How will Year 11 and 13 be awarded qualifications?

At present, we do not know. As soon as we have news on this, we will share it with you.

How will Year 10 and 12 exam courses be affected if the students are not in school?

We do not know at the present time, but we expect to receive information from the relevant exam boards in the future.

We wish you well during this very difficult time and look forward to seeing you all again as soon as we are able to re-open our school.

Yours sincerely



David Herbert

Att.

Who to contact at Budmouth Academy

If you want to speak with a member of staff and are unsure who the right person would be, please do contact our Main Office by telephone (01305 830500) or email (office@budmouth-aspirations.org) and they will be happy to help you. We always aim to respond to urgent enquiries within 24 hours and non-urgent within 72 hours.

If you want to discuss a general query about your child, their Form Tutor should be the main point of contact.

If you have a more serious concern about any aspect of your child's welfare, then you should contact the relevant Head of School:

Attenborough: Jayne Guppy (jguppy@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Shelley: Lesley Carter (lacarter@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Turing: Andy Clark (aclark@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Hawking: Pete Lydford (plydford@budmouth-aspirations.org)

The Heads of School work closely with our Pastoral Support Leaders who are attached to Year Groups.

Year 7: Deb Roberts (droberts@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Year 8: Jane Taylor (jtaylor@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Year 9: Dawn Kirby (dkirby@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Year 10: Ali Lawrence (alawrence@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Year 11: Luke Bartlett (lbartlett@budmouth-aspirations.org)

With any aspect of Special Educational Needs support then please contact Nita Dooley our SENDCO (ndooley@budmouth-aspirations.org) or Pete McCarthy, Director of Inclusion (pmccarthy@budmouth-aspirations.org).

Questions or queries in relation to any aspect of the 6th Form should be directed, in the first instance, to Mark Henman our Director of 6th Form (mhenman@budmouth-aspirations.org).

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Zillah Rainback (zrainback@budmouth-aspirations.org).

Should you wish to make contact with one of your child's subject teachers, you are very welcome to do so.

You are also welcome to contact the Subject Co-ordinators:

English: Lorraine Graves (lgraves@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Maths: James Bryant-Harries (jbryant-harries@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Science: Matt Williamson (mwilliamson@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Humanities: Martin Pick (mpick@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Sport: Sam Morris (smorris@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Technology: Tony Walker (awalker@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Expressive Arts: Shelley Trott (strott@budmouth-aspirations.org)

Languages: Simon Lewis (slewis@budmouth-aspirations.org)

If you want to discuss a medical need or provision for your child, then please contact Justin Abbott, First Aid and Health & Safety Co-ordinator (jabbott@budmouth-aspirations.org).

The list above covers the main enquiries that we receive, but if in doubt, please contact the Main Office.