18th March 2020

Dear families

**Notice of school closure – COVID 19**

In light of the Prime Minister’s announcement yesterday, schools have been ordered to close to children at the end of the day on **Friday 20th March 2020** and will not reopen until further notice. The academy, therefore, would like to take this opportunity to set out what we will do to continue to support the community during this period of closure.

**GCSE and A-Level**

Change is occurring quickly and as such, we now know that the **summer examinations have been cancelled**. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to provide any more clarity or certainty regarding what the government’s plans will be for those students who were expecting to sit these examinations other than there will be some form of accreditation. As soon as we receive further information we will share this with you.

We would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication that all of our GCSE and A Level students have shown throughout their two years’ of study with us and we would like to remind our students that they did not learn all of what they have acquired simply for an examination. That they have acquired this knowledge and these skills in preparation for the next stages of their education or training. With this in mind, we encourage our students to continue with their learning during this period of closure ... to not stop ... to build on this knowledge base by accessing the online work set by their subject teachers that will continue to prepare them for further study.

**Monday 23rd March 2020**

While Monday will see a different way of working via online platforms for many of our students, the academy will open its doors to the children of **key workers** (as defined by Her Majesty's Government and thought to include workers such as: all NHS workers, the police, the fire service, essential delivery drivers, care home workers). Once the definitive list has been published, we will update you.
Children who may require particular or a more tailored package of support will be contacted directly by members of the academy team.

The academy’s hours of opening during this time will be as normal: 8am until 3.20pm. The children will be expected to arrive at the academy in full school uniform as per the normal academy day. Access to the same work that has been set for their peers via the online platforms will be completed during this time. We would, therefore, like to extend the offer of attending the academy to those families who cannot access the online learning platforms from home.

**Free School Meals**

After Friday’s closure, a packed lunch, provided by City Serve, will be available to all students in receipt of free school meals for collection from 1pm to 2pm. This arrangement will eventually change to a voucher scheme. We will communicate further with families when the voucher system comes into existence.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Hamilton

Headmaster