

23 March 2020

Schools

- The Bicester School
 - Bicester Technology Studio
 - Theale Green School
 - UTC Heathrow
 - UTC Oxfordshire
 - UTC Reading
 - UTC Swindon
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Dear Parents/Carers

As we now enter the stage of most of our students and staff working from home and therefore our new way of working for the foreseeable future, this will be the last of the daily communications from a Trust perspective. Each school will continue with the usual level of communications, with the vast majority of this being between staff and students as they settle into working remotely.

I would like to thank you for your support and patience and to reassure you that our staff will continue to be of support to you and your children throughout the coming months.

For those of you with children who were expecting to sit examinations this summer, you will have no doubt seen that the government has stated that examinations in the summer will be cancelled and has released the following information:

“New details regarding the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on summer exams has been released.

The exam regulator, Ofqual, and exam boards will work with teachers to provide grades to students whose exams have been cancelled this summer, following our actions to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers’ representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible.

Find details on the impact on summer exams here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

More information will be provided as soon as possible.”

We will be working with examination boards over the coming days and weeks and will keep students and parents informed of the process we will need to complete. In the meantime, students should continue with work set by teachers.

The government have also requested that all schools cascade the following information to all parents:

“From Friday 20 March schools, childcare and other educational settings are closed for everyone except:

- *children of critical workers*

- *vulnerable children*

We have published guidance for parents and carers:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Critical workers

If parents' work is critical to the coronavirus response, their children will be prioritised for early years and education provision.

The Government has published a list of critical workers:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>"

Finally, I would like to re-iterate the government's ongoing message that we all need to play our part in beating this virus and following the social distancing advice.

Please take care and stay safe.



Joanne Harper
Chief Executive Officer - ALET

