

19 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

Following on from our last update, we are now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all 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, where these are required.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories and if you would like your child to come to school to complete the work set by their teachers.

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 this via our usual channels.

What we know, so far

- At the end of Friday 20 March 2020 our schools will close.
- From Monday 23 March 2020 we will operate in a very different way, with children working from home on work set by teachers but with our doors still open to children who are vulnerable (defined by the government as having a social worker or an EHCP) or are the children of key workers (we are awaiting a full definition but expect this to cover NHS staff, food and distribution workers, police, prison and fire brigade staff, and those who are working to produce medical equipment).
- We will need to continue to provide lunch for those children entitled to free school meals.
- No examinations will take place, but further information around assessment will follow in the coming days.

What are we doing in response to the announcement?

- On Friday 20 March we will only expect children from Year 11 and Year 13 to attend the school. All other year groups will be expected to work from home, except for vulnerable students and children of key workers.
- On Friday 20 March, Year 11 and Year 13 students will attend for the morning only (including lunch time) to enable staff time in the afternoon to plan for our new 'normal' way of working from Monday 23 March 2020.
- Students will be able to stay on site until the end of the day to travel home on the usual school buses.
- We will be providing a lunch for all students entitled to free school meals, more details to follow.
- We will be contacting parents of children who have a social worker or EHCP to discuss plans from Monday 23 March 2020.

- We will be asking for those parents who are key workers to let us know if your child will be attending the school from Monday 23 March so that we are able to provide the right level of staffing.
- Provision at the school from Monday 23 March will be from 9.00am to 3.00pm. At this stage we expect school buses not to run and therefore parents will need to consider how their children get to and from school. Please note children will be completing the same work as those working at home in supervised learning zones.
- Working on a plan for support for children of key workers over the Easter holidays.

What we do not yet know

- The plan for grading of examination courses for Year 11 and Post 16. We are expecting a further update from the government on Friday 20 March.
- How universities will operate their admissions or how offers will be finalised.
- How apprenticeship offers will work that have conditions on grades to be achieved for entry.
- How long we will be closed.

This is as much as we know right now, and we appreciate your continued patience with this 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.

Please click [here](#) to access a great Wellbeing Pack which your child may find useful.

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.

Regards



Joanne Harper
Chief Executive Officer - ALET

