

19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

School Closure

Firstly, can I thank you for your support this week as we have done all we can to keep ahead of the game in what has been a fast-moving picture. Due to reduced staffing levels we regrettably needed to close to year 9 and 10 earlier this week but have been able to provide education for our younger and older students since then. However, you will be aware that the government announced yesterday that all schools in England will close from Monday 23rd March until further notice to minimise the further spread of coronavirus.

As you will know, we were preparing for this in the background and information about our contingency plans during the closure can be found in my previous letter sent to you on Monday 16th March. The letter can be viewed here:

<https://www.samworthchurchacademy.co.uk/news/2020-03-18-coronavirus-updates-please-check-daily>

The letter explains the steps we have taken to ensure our students can continue to learn and explains who to contact in the event of any issues or concerns. As previously communicated, the main method of providing work to students will be through Show My Homework. I must stress that the vast majority of academy staff are fit and well and will be working to support students throughout the closure.

Yesterday, we asked parents by text to contact us with further information if you work in the NHS, Emergency Services, a supermarket, deliver food to supermarkets or in manufacturing or design of ventilators and closure will prevent you from going to work. We asked for this in the event that we may be asked to provide a service to students whose parents work in certain jobs. If you haven't yet responded and this applies to you please email sspencer@tscacademy.org.uk stating your job and the names and year groups of your children that attend the academy. There is no need to get in touch if you do not work in these areas or you have alternative childcare arrangements. We will be able to contact you directly once we have further information and guidance on this and how we may be able to support you.

As was announced, A level and GCSE exams will not take place as planned in May and June. Many students will be understandably disappointed by this news and I would like to pay personal tribute to our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have worked so hard to prepare for their summer examinations. We understand that grades will still be awarded to students, but we are currently awaiting guidance to explain how this will work in practice. However, I offer my personal assurance that we will do everything in our power to ensure no students are disadvantaged as they progress to their next educational destination.

We will keep you informed of any developments via text message, our website and social media pages which will include any changes to our re-opening date so please continue to check these regularly. I would also urge you again to notify us, as a matter of priority, of any changes to your contact details. You can do this using the change of information form available on our website:

<https://www.samworthchurchacademy.co.uk/parent-information/Forms>



Alternatively, you can continue to email us during the closure on our enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk email address or call us on 07546 158649 between the hours of 7.45am to 12.15pm or 07547 313743 between the hours of 11.45am to 4.15pm.

The local authority is yet to announce what arrangements are to be put in place for the provision of food for children eligible for free school meals (whether they are at home or at school), but we hope to be able to share more information on this shortly.

As we keep hearing, these are indeed unprecedented times and I would like to take this opportunity once again to thank you for your support of the academy and to wish you all good health and peace during these tumultuous times. Please remember that many of us will still be working to provide the best service we can so if we can help your children or family in anyway in the coming days and weeks please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa McVeigh', written in a cursive style.

Lisa McVeigh
Principal