



March 2020

Dear Family

I would like to take this opportunity to offer everyone a message of support and sympathy as we try to cope with what are, for many people, significant challenges to their home and working lives.

As a result of current attendance and the number of staff who currently fall under government guidelines for self-isolation, I am informing you of the following changes to our situation.

On Wednesday 18 March the following procedures will apply:

- The Academy will be closed to Years 7, 8 and Year 9 students for the remainder of the week
- The Academy will be open as normal to Years 10 and 11 for the remainder of this week
- In the event of a whole school closure we will provide information about how to access online learning
- The Year 9 Options Evening will no longer go ahead on Thursday 19 March and a decision has been made to reschedule for the Summer term. Phone calls will no longer be made as previously communicated. We will notify you as soon as a date has been agreed.
- Any key workers within NHS or emergency services with children affected by our closure are invited to make contact with us using info@thorns-s.dudley.sch.uk and we will attempt to facilitate continued childcare
- Further guidance and updates will continue to be sent to all families directly as daily government briefings update the situation

We will continue to follow the guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education. The current advice, as of Monday 16 March, is that any student who has a fever (temperature above 37.8C) or persistent cough, should self-isolate with the rest of their family for 14 days. The school will authorise all absences that should arise as a result of this. It is important that education of our students is not interrupted and that we are able to operate as normal for as long as possible. However, as you are aware contingency plans are already in place and I will continue to keep you updated of any further guidance received.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Kelay
Principal

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