



Wigston College

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19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We confirm that the Government have told us to close the Academy, the College and Tiger Tots, our nursery, on Friday 20th March 2020. Our sports lettings division will also close.

We have been asked to make provision and remain open for certain students. The first group is children who live in households where the sole carer or both parents have certain protected jobs – see more below. The second is for students in specific circumstances. We have already started contacting this small group. For the overwhelming majority of students we have been instructed to close.

Due to the number of staff unable to work tomorrow, and in line with many other schools, we have been forced to suspend school for some year groups. We can only apologise in advance for any inconvenience. We will let you know which years this affects shortly.

The Government have confirmed that there will be no GCSE or A Level exams for Years 11 and 13 this year. This has made our students very anxious and we are working hard to reassure them that OFQUAL (the qualifications authority), exam boards, sixth form providers and universities are working closely together and have said that no student will be disadvantaged by this current crisis. They have been very clear about this so we have been able to pass this message on to students with confidence. The Government have not yet worked out the detail of this but as soon as we find out we will contact students to let them know what this means for them in reality and what they need to do. Where students have coursework and they are very nearly finished, we believe it is prudent that they finish this work to the best of their ability as this may be a source of evidence on which to offer places in further or higher education. We also believe it is essential for Year 11 and Year 13 students to maintain a focus in their area of study so that they are ready to start new courses in September. In the coming days we will develop transition packs for these students. We are still here for them if they need us.

For students in other years, we will set work on showmyhomework which can be accessed via showmyhomework.co.uk and via our school websites. We will use showmyhomework as our means of communicating with students in the first instance. There will be a variety of other ways that students can keep working and, Mrs Pollon, will write to you about these separately soon. As with Year 11 and Year 13, we are still here for them if they need us.

If you or anyone in your household is showing symptoms of the virus then please follow current NHS instructions and all self-isolate.

The Government will shortly publish the list of jobs which qualify you to keep your child in school. In order for us to get school up and running for them on Monday it would be enormously helpful if you could let us know that you will be sending your child or children to school. Please would you email admin@wigstonacademy.org and clearly state your child's name and your protected job. In brief, we will keep the same times of the school day; students will be expected to behave well and they should come in uniform. Obviously there will be no breakfast club or any after school activities so students will leave at 3.00 pm. There will be no school bus service until further notice.

For students who receive a free school meal we will continue to provide food at lunchtime by offering a take-away service. This will run every school day between 12.00 noon and 12.30 pm. This applies equally to Academy and College students and will be served from Wigston Academy's dining hall.

The adults that work at Wigston Academies Trust are devastated that we have been forced to close. We extend our greatest sympathy to Year 11 and Year 13 who have been particularly affected by the extraordinary circumstances of this virus. We send our students, and you their families, our love and best wishes to keep safe and healthy and as positive as you can during this time. We look forward to seeing us all back together and business as usual as soon as we can. Whatever happens, we don't believe that this is goodbye for our Year 11s or Year 13s and look forward to welcoming them back to school with everyone else soon.

Yours faithfully,



Mark Mitchley
Executive Headteacher



Mike Wilson
Headteacher

Please note that the situation is changing very rapidly and arrangements as outlined above may be subject to change. Where they do change, we will get back in touch as soon as we can.