

Wednesday 18th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with regret that we have made the decision to close all of our special schools from close of day on **Friday 20th March**. This decision has been made after long and careful discussion with our Chair of Trustees and academy leaders with the aim of keeping our young people safe and keeping staff and their families safe.

These are unprecedented times and we have to act cautiously as we have so many vulnerable young people as well as staff to whom we have a duty of care. The Government recently announced their advice for all those with an underlying medical condition and those with a learning disability to shield themselves from social contact from this weekend. Bearing this in mind, we feel it is sensible that we heed this advice and try and prevent the spread of the virus.

We are already seeing diminishing staff teams as they feel the need to either isolate due to symptoms or stop social contact in order to protect themselves and others.

We fully understand that this may place pressure back on families, especially those who work or care for others. There are a number of steps each school and the respective local authorities are taking to support families and your Head Teacher will be providing further information to you by the end of the week.

We will be closed for the foreseeable future and will update families with any change in our circumstances via our website, academy Facebook pages and through the OurSchoolsApp.

Different local authorities are providing a range of services and as these are published we will keep you signposted. We would like to thank parents and carers for their kindness and support during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carolyn Morgan'.

Carolyn Morgan
CEO



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