



Star

27 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you so much for your support during the first week of school closure.

Home learning

For many families, this has been an exceptionally challenging week. You may not have been identified as a 'critical' worker, nonetheless you have important work to do. Many of you will be getting to grips with remote working. I am grateful to you for heeding the government's advice to keep your children at home: I know that you may be facing a difficult balancing act.

All children - from Reception to Year 12 - are expected to follow programmes of study during the period of school closure. In the first instance, some year groups will be accessing online learning while others are studying predominantly from work packs. We will continue to monitor, review and adapt these arrangements. You have provided helpful feedback on issues such as the amount of time your child is spending looking at a screen and the difficulties associated with internet connections. We are working hard to improve the quality of your child's remote learning and we are planning some central initiatives, which we hope will be both enjoyable and purposeful.

Summer exams

As you are aware, all public examinations have been cancelled for summer 2020. By the end of next week, the Government will provide detail as to how grades will be awarded to students for GCSE, A level and vocational qualifications. We will update you when these arrangements are announced.

Fraud alert

Sadly, some unscrupulous people are using the current situation to exploit parents' fears and uncertainties. The Department for Education has warned that fraudsters are targeting parents of children eligible for free school meals. Families have received an email requesting their bank details, claiming this will enable their children to continue receiving meals through school closures amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Anyone receiving such an email should delete it immediately. Please be assured that your school will not ask you for any financial information in relation to the interim arrangements for free school meals.

Star Community Hubs

Provision for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers will continue. In some areas, children may be attending a school site other than their own. If this arrangement affects you, you will be informed directly. We are planning a fundraising campaign to help establish and run Star Community Hubs across the country to support those most at need in our communities. In the meantime, if you are struggling to make ends meet, please contact info@staracademies.org and we will see what can be done to help you.

Please continue to follow government guidelines with regard to staying at home and social distancing. If you or your child suffers from asthma, you may find it helpful to check on the latest health advice from Asthma UK at www.asthma.org.uk/advice/triggers/coronavirus-covid-19/

Thank you once again for supporting your child's learning during this challenging time. I hope that you and your family remain well.

Yours sincerely,

(Mufti) Hamid Patel CBE
Chief Executive