

20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

On the last full day of being open for the majority of students, I wanted to write again to you to give you a further update.

### **Home Study**

We have put some guidance on how we can support students with their home study on our website: <https://www.chilternhillsacademy.co.uk/covid19>

Staff are also busy updating Show My Homework with relevant work for students to access. We will be sending a copy of your child's current school timetable to help in their organisation of their self-study.

### **Free School Meals**

All next week there will be a catering service for students in receipt of free school meals. This will be available in the atrium between 12.30pm and 1.30pm. Students are welcome to come into school to have either a hot meal or a nutritious cold alternative. We hope that during next week we will be given more guidance as to the Government FSM voucher system. As soon as we have this information we will tell you about this.

### **Form time this afternoon**

We have had a special form time this afternoon to enable students to think about their home study arrangements and to ensure that they have taken all personal items from their lockers. During this period we also shared some wellbeing ideas relevant to young people at this time of anxiety for us all. The school will of course be open next week if students wish to come in then to clear their lockers and leave them open for cleaning.

### **IT and IT Support**

As the school closes for most students, the ICT team will be available to try to resolve IT issues. Please do email [ictsupport@chacademy.co.uk](mailto:ictsupport@chacademy.co.uk) if any problems are encountered.

For the older students in the first instance we are using Microsoft Teams for some lessons. We have trialled this with some classes with good success.

### **Parent/school communication**

We will continue to publish a fortnightly newsletter. In the newsletter next week, we will share the email addresses for all the subject and course leaders and key staff in the school. Thus enabling you to make contact as you need with the relevant person. Please be aware that if a teacher is unwell they may not be able to respond to you immediately.

We will be updating the website with key documents related to the virus, home study and support links to try to help all our families at this difficult time.

### **Keyworker and Vulnerable student timetable**

Thank you to those parents who have emailed us their details following my letter to you yesterday. Late last evening the government confirmed that 'keyworkers' are as listed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

To summarise this document, it is anyone working in: health and social care, education and child care, public services, local and national government, the supply and selling of food and necessary goods, public safety, transport, utility supplies and financial services.

The formal programme for these students will commence on **Tuesday 24 March at 9.00am**. Students attending do not need to be in uniform but they do need to bring their normal school equipment. There will be food available to purchase at lunchtime between 1.20 and 1.50pm.

If you do need us to care for your youngster on Monday we will of course do this. I am sure that you can appreciate that we needed time to prepare for the new routine. Please email Mrs Sanders ([wsanders@chacademy.co.uk](mailto:wsanders@chacademy.co.uk)) if you need us to care for your youngster on Monday. If not, we look forward to seeing these students on Tuesday.

In closing, I would like to share that we have kept the school working as normal as possible this week. This is a tribute to our staff and to those students who are fit and healthy that have been attending and enjoying their learning. It has been a good week at school.

We know that in the coming weeks things will change and the collaborative and community aspect will change for us all in our school community but we are still here for our students and parents, albeit communicating and learning in different way. Whilst we have students in school we will be employing social distancing, as we have been guided by the recent Government announcements and would ask that you encourage your youngster to adopt the same approach.

In our staff prayer session at the end of the day yesterday led by Rev Bailey, we shared our thoughts and prayers for all those in our community for their health and happiness in these very difficult times.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work through these very strange times together.

Yours sincerely

MR K PATRICK  
Principal