



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

You will now be aware that the Academy will be closed from Monday 23rd March with some key exceptions. You should have now received a letter from the Leigh Academies Trust in regards to this, and been directed to our online key worker survey, located [here](#) and on our website. If you believe you are a key worker and will need your child to attend school during the coming weeks, it is essential that you complete the survey at your earliest convenience so that we are able to plan a safe and effective provision.

Every effort will be made to open the academy daily for our most vulnerable students, and for those whose parents/ carers fall into the recently government defined critical worker category. Should this not be possible due to staff absence the parents/ carers of those students will be informed and every attempt made for an alternative provision to be made available.

The Government has provided clear guidance on reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus in relation to schools, this is:

- As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus - That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#).
- The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading - That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.
- It is important to underline that schools, all childcare settings (including early years settings, childminders and providers of childcare for school-age children), colleges and other educational establishments, remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

The provision for students who do attend LAB from 23rd March 2020 will be limited. There will be no timetabled lessons or activities, students will be supervised as they complete the remote learning activities set by their teachers and lunch will be available for those who receive Free School Meals. Details of our remote learning provision can be found below:

**Remote Learning** - Whilst the academy is closed, students are required to continue their learning remotely using their virtual classrooms. All students are experienced virtual



learners and have the necessary skills to access curriculum content and learning tasks independently away from the academy.

Students can access their virtual classrooms from any digital device. This means that if they are unable to use the LAB issued chromebook for any reason, they can log onto their google accounts using a home computer, tablet, chromebook or phone connected to the internet. Checks have taken place this week to ensure all students have access to one of the above devices at home and therefore can actively engage with remote learning.

Work will be set for students each day in their google classrooms and posted on Doodle so that all parents/ carers are able to see the tasks set, and monitor the work being completed. Please refer to your child's timetable to see what subjects they should be studying each day as we have made no change to the scheduled lessons in order to retain a sense of routine for all students. We expect all students to continue reading for 1 hour.

Please note that there may be times when a member of staff is unable to set work due to illness. We have added an independent learning guide to the remote learning page on our website for these circumstances and encourage students to explore some of the wider digital resources available for subject areas.

Guidance sheets can be found on the remote learning page on our website: <http://leighacademyblackheath.org.uk/about-us/online-learning/> if you require support to access the relevant online resources used at LAB. Should your child forget their LAB gmail password, please contact: [passwordreset@leighacademyblackheath.org.uk](mailto:passwordreset@leighacademyblackheath.org.uk)

Please note that the academy site will be closed, including the office. Essential contact can be made using the [info@leighacademyblackheath.org.uk](mailto:info@leighacademyblackheath.org.uk) email address but response times may be longer than usual at this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the entire LAB community - staff, students and parents/ carers, for their hard work, support and resilience over the last week. We have faced many challenges but managed to overcome them swiftly and calmly, ensuring the students wellbeing and learning has not been affected.

Please stay safe and look after each other.

Kind Regards,  
Emma Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Smith', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Principal