



Northern Ambition Academies Trust

Crewe Road, Airedale, Castleford WF10 3JU – Tel: 01977 664555 – Fax: 01977 664556

Date: 27/04/2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we move in to our 6th week of 'lockdown' and school closure for the majority of children and young people, I would again like to take this opportunity to update you on a number of things.

Home Learning

As always, thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in encouraging your children to complete their home learning. It's not easy! Each of our schools is doing a fantastic job in ensuring the children have plenty to do, but please also be aware of other resources available nationally. We regularly provide links for these on the school social media pages and websites. The following link will take you to an online classroom and resource hub created by teachers, for teachers. The aim is to support teachers to support their pupils by providing a bank of high-quality, sequenced video lessons and resources for teachers to use as they wish. Please look out for this work being used with your children and support them with this where you can. <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>

New national helpline for home-schooling parents and carers

A national helpline has been set up for parents and carers struggling with home schooling. Named 'StarLine', the free phone service, launched by a coalition of academy trusts and parenting groups and supported by the Department for Education, will involve qualified teachers and experts in education and parenting. Calls are confidential, and it aims to provide parents and carers with tips about how to structure the day, deal with bad behaviour or manage lessons for several children. The number to call is **0330 3139162** and calls are charged at a local rate. The confidential phone line, which was launched last Friday the 24th, will operate six days a week. It will cover all areas of the curriculum across all phases of education.

Providing laptops, tablets and internet access to disadvantaged pupils

You will have seen in the news that the Department for Education will provide the following for some disadvantaged children and young people who do not currently have access to them:

- digital devices (laptops and tablets)
- internet access

The intention is that Laptops and tablets will be provided for disadvantaged families, children and young people who do not currently have access to them. Internet access will also be provided through 4G hotspot devices. Eligible people are:

- care leavers
- children and young people aged 0 to 19 with a social worker
- disadvantaged year 10 pupils

Please Note - Parents, carers and pupils will not be able to apply for internet access or digital devices themselves.

As soon as we receive more information and guidance around this, we will pass this on to you, in the meantime please do not contact school about this as we will have no further information to share with you. What we do know, is that Internet and digital devices will be delivered directly to the schools or the Local Authority. We will then arrange for devices to be collected by families from school (following social distancing guidelines), or we will send them to pupils' homes where necessary.

Bank holiday – Friday 8th May

Our schools will be closed to those children using our provision (Key Worker and Vulnerable children) on Friday 8th May. This will enable us all to recognise and celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE day! Up until and following on from that date, provision will remain as it currently is.

Y13 BTEC Results day – Wednesday 12th August

More detail will be sent out to all Year 13 students receiving BTEC results closer to the above date.

GCSE Results Day – Thursday 20th August

We have now received confirmation that the GCSE results day will remain on the published date of Thursday 20th August. Details as to how this will look at Airedale Academy will be sent to all Y11 students in the near future. You will have seen in various published articles about the cancellation of summer examinations and the subsequent allocation of predicted grades for students, that schools are not allowed, under any circumstances, to share predicted grades with students or parents prior to results day. Please can I ask that you respect this and do not contact school to request this information.

Y6 Final Predictions

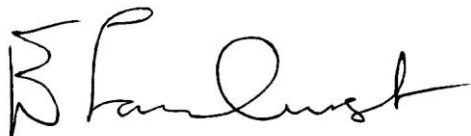
In light of the SATs also being cancelled, Y6 staff have been busy working on pupil predictions in a similar way to the process for GCSE students. There is currently no published guidance about when children should receive these predictions, but we will ensure we share them with you in an appropriate way as soon as we can.

Reopening of Schools

There continues to be much speculation about the reopening of schools, but no agreed date or plan. On 18 April the DfE said that 'No decision has been made on a timetable for re-opening schools. Schools remain closed until further notice, except for children of critical workers and the most vulnerable children. Schools will only re-open when the scientific advice indicates it is the right time to do so.'

The Secretary of State has committed to working with the education sector to consider how best to reopen schools, nurseries and colleges when the time is right. As soon as we receive any information or guidance, I will of course ensure that this is shared.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Fairhurst', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Fairhurst

Chief Executive

Northern Ambition Academies Trust