



20 March 2020

**Principal**  
Peter Kirkbride MA

Dear Parents/Carers,

The last week has been hugely challenging for the whole Brooke Weston Academy community. I am so proud of the incredible hard work of the entire staff team, the resilience of our students and the support we have received from our parents. Despite the current challenges, I know that this will pass and Brooke Weston Academy will be back open, ready to continue to provide an outstanding education to its students.

### **Brooke Weston Academy closed from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**

As I am sure you are aware, yesterday the Government announced that all schools will be closed from **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** until further notice.

This means that Brooke Weston Academy will be closed from this date to all students except for the following students:

- Children with Education Health Care Plans, Children who have contact with a Social Worker, e.g. 'Children in Need' or those on the Child Protection Register, any Children in Care (LAC) and children of 'key workers' (as defined by the Government at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>).
- All other children will need to stay at home and I would ask that you do not send your child to Brooke Weston Academy from Monday onwards.

***The principle is that if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The Government is asking parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible – schools will remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.***

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do at Brooke Weston Academy. However, during such uncertain times and due to school closures, it is important that we ensure parents/carers know who to contact if they are concerned about the welfare or safety of a child.

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs). You can find their contact details on our school website [www.brookeweston.org](http://www.brookeweston.org)

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child out of school hours please contact the MASH team on 0300 126 1000 (option 1). Alternatively, you can e-mail them on [MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk)

If you think a child is in immediate danger or missing, you should contact the police and/or an ambulance directly by phoning **999**.

### **Student learning at home**

We are committed to our aim that during this period of school closure we will provide the best possible learning opportunities for our students. It is imperative that we keep the school curriculum a part of our students' day to ensure

our students' day to ensure that there is limited disruption to your child's learning, allowing them to carry on with their education with us as normal on return.

As a school we have put a comprehensive plan in place to ensure that a rich online curriculum can be delivered by our staff to our students for the duration of the school closure. All lessons and school resources will be made available and delivered to students via the software Microsoft Teams. Teachers and students have had training on the software. More details can be found in the Home Learning guide which is included with this letter. Today, KS3 students have been sent home with hard copies of Maths, English and Science work to complete.

Should you or your child have any queries in regards to Microsoft Teams please view the information on our website under **"Students"**. Links to the Teams folder are also supplied there along with student instructions: <https://www.brookeweston.org/page/?title=Our+Students&pid=16>

If you have any questions regarding the curriculum, subjects or work, please contact your teacher in the first instance via email or Teams. However they may be unavailable, so in this instance please contact: [CurriculumSupport@brookeweston.org](mailto:CurriculumSupport@brookeweston.org)

If you have issues with Teams or Office 365 please contact: [ITStudentSupport@brookeweston.org](mailto:ITStudentSupport@brookeweston.org)  
**Please note:** IT support cannot resolve issues with hardware or Internet at home.

### **School Transport**

School buses **will** run as normal for the week commencing Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Pick up and drop off timings remain the same. Once we have a clear understanding of the number of 'key worker' children attending the Academy we will make decisions about this transport and communicate this to you.

### **Year 11 and 13**

This is an especially difficult time for our Year 11 and 13 students. The Government has announced that exams are not taking place during the usual examination period. Whilst we are awaiting the final guidance, they have been clear that students will get the qualifications they need to progress to both further and higher education. I have met with each of these year groups to provide reassurance and as soon as we have more information, we will communicate this to you. It goes without saying that we will do the very best that we can to support our Year 11 and 13 students during this uncertain time. To be clear this applies to all examinations, including any due in Year 10 or Year 12.

### **Students who are in school**

Students, who meet the Government criteria to be in the Academy, can attend as normal. They should be in school for **8.35am and the school day will finish at 4.05pm.**

School buses will leave at 4.15pm daily and parents who collect their children should do so from 4.05pm promptly. There is no staying on after this time and there will be no after school clubs or activities.

Students do not have to be in school uniform, but should be dressed in smart casual that would meet our usual expectations for a non-uniform day. Students are to bring their school ID cards.

School meals will be available as usual.



### **Free School Meals**

School meals will be provided to all students who are eligible for Free School Meals.

All Free School Meal students who are attending school because they are children of key workers or Children with Education Health Care Plans, Children who have contact with a Social Worker, e.g. 'Children in Need' or those on the Child Protection Register and any Children in Care (LAC) will have meals in school as normal.

Any Free School Meal students who are not in school, but whose parents would like to collect a packed lunch from school, will be able to do so from the Academy from 11AM pm daily, Monday to Friday.

The Government has suggested that they will be putting an alternative solution for Free School Meals in place shortly and we will communicate with you again once we know more.

### **Contact moving forward**

The Brooke Weston Academy website is now a critical communication tool and I would ask that you check it daily for updates. The website is at <https://www.brookeweston.org>  
We are in a very fast moving situation and information can change daily. When we have updates, we will add information to the website. We will continue to use texts to keep you updated.

### **Coronavirus**

Please also keep updated on the Government information regarding Coronavirus on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>.

### **Conclusion**

I want to finish by thanking you again for your fantastic support to both myself and the staff team over this time. I have received so many lovely comments from parents and they have made a real difference over this very busy week! I need to pay tribute to my amazing staff, both teaching and support, who came back from holiday on Monday and through herculean efforts have allowed us to stay open and be prepared to continue to educate our students at home going forward.

Please look after yourselves and your families during this uncertain time and we are looking forward to seeing all of our students back in Brooke Weston Academy as soon as is possible.

Yours sincerely



Pete Kirkbride  
Principal