

Principal: Mr N. Lowry

Westport Road
Tunstall
Stoke-on-Trent
ST6 4LD

Tel 01782 882300
academy@cas.coop
www.cas.coop



Co-op Academy
Stoke-on-Trent

17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus/COVID-19 Update - Partial Closure

There has been a rapid escalation in the coronavirus situation and the subsequent advice given by the government over the last 24 hours. This has had a huge impact on our ability to run the academy in its normal fashion. We are currently following the Department for Education's guidance on [managing coronavirus in an educational setting](#). As well as the [updated guidance](#) on social distancing issued on 16th March.

Today, 169 students (17% of total) have either self isolated by their parents or carers or have been sent home by the academy as they are exhibiting symptoms. **The present guidance (16th March) is that a family should self isolate for 14 days as a minimum if anyone in the house is exhibiting symptoms,** details are in the link above.

The latest guidance on [social distancing](#) issued on the 16th March has huge ramifications for you as parents and carers and us as an academy. **If a staff member or student lives in a household with someone over 70 years old or someone who has an [underlying health condition](#) they are not to come into school, even if they are not presenting with any symptoms.** This is for an initial 14 day period, but the present advice is that this could be extended for a number of weeks.

We are following this guidance and as a result a large number of our staff will not be able to come to work tomorrow. **Therefore in order to manage this situation, I am announcing that there is a partial closure of the academy from Wednesday 18th March. The academy will be closed to all students from Year 8 and Year 9 until further notice.** We are trying to maintain support for our Key Stage Four students at this crucial time and also we want to look after our youngest students.

All Year 8 and Year 9 lessons will be delivered via Google Classroom. The academy is open to students in Years 7, 10 and 11 who are not showing any symptoms of coronavirus and who are not affected by the social distancing set out above.

If a child has had to self-isolate in Years 7,10 and 11, their teacher will set work via Google Classroom. Students have been prepared for this during lesson time over the last week.

For some more vulnerable students in Year 8 and Year 9 we will offer face to face provision through Learning Support. These students will be contacted individually. We will continue to offer free school meals to all students who qualify and details of this will follow shortly. If you are a parent or carer who works in the emergency services in Year 8 and Year 9 please contact us on attendance@cas.coop with a photo of your relevant ID, as we can still provide supervision during normal school hours

This is a rapidly changing situation and I will be communicating regularly with you over this period. As ever, thank you for the support. This is a huge decision to make and not one I have taken lightly. As ever, the health and safety of staff and students has to come first.

Yours sincerely

Mr N Lowry
Principal