



19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a difficult week for us all. Our priority during these unprecedented times has been to maintain stability and ensure children are kept safe. CORE Education Trust staff should be commended for their incredible efforts to maintain focus and composure during this period. We are a family of schools and we work as one team; the spirit of togetherness has never been so palpable. In light of yesterday's announcement from the Secretary of State for Education about the continuing measures to partially close schools across the country, I am writing to make clear our current position and provide details of how we will continue to support you and your child/ren from this point on:

- **Tomorrow (Friday 20th March)**

All CORE Education Trust schools are open tomorrow on the same basis that they have operated today. Other arrangements have already been communicated on a school by school basis from individual Headteachers. For the majority of students, this will be the last day they are required to attend school in person until further notice. However, all children should continue to follow their home learning through the CORE Connects Plan. This plan varies from school to school and year group to year group. You can access the CORE Connects Plan for your child by visiting the link shown below

<http://arena-birmingham.academy/core-connect/>

Tomorrow is not an early end of term. Students should understand they will now be learning from home until further notice unless they receive confirmation from us tomorrow that they are still required to attend school in person.

- **Monday 23rd March to Friday 3rd April**

All CORE Education Trust schools will remain open but on a restricted basis during this period. We are receiving guidelines from the government which students will be eligible to attend in person. We will confirm eligibility tomorrow. If your child/ren is eligible, we will contact you separately tomorrow with more specific information about the arrangements from Monday 23rd March.

IF YOU HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO THE TEXT MESSAGE SENT OUT BY YOUR CHILDS SCHOOL BY COMPLETING THE FORM, PLEASE USE THE LINK BELOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO TELL US ABOUT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES. This will allow us to assess your child's eligibility to attend school in person.

<https://tinyurl.com/COREArena>

For those children not attending in person, we remain available to offer support virtually. -This period should be used for home learning. We will write to all parents again at the end of this period.

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- **Vulnerable children and children from key worker families**

These are the two groups that are eligible to continue to attend school in person. We are putting in place specific plans for these students and each school will have its own local arrangements which will be sent out tomorrow by text message and published on the CORE Connects page of your child's school website.

- **Year 11s**

We received the very disappointing news that there will be no GCSE examinations as planned. This has caused upset and uncertainty for our Year 11 students. It is essential that Year 11s continue to follow the home learning information we are providing. It is possible they may be required to sit some form of examination at a later date.

- **Free School Meals**

We are awaiting information about food vouchers from the government. We will update the CORE Connects section of the school website about this when arrangements have been confirmed. In the meantime, we continue to offer "grab and go" services in each of our schools.

- **Staying in touch**

We will continue to update the CORE Connects page of the school websites during this period. If you have access to twitter, we strongly encourage you to follow **@COREeducate** and your school on twitter. We provide daily updates. The school website (CORE Connects page - <http://arena-birmingham.academy/core-connect/>) is also a good place to find updates.

If you are worried or unclear about current arrangements, please communicate directly with your school by email or telephone.

Finally, I would like to stress that we are committed to maintaining operational stability during this complex and challenging time. However, like most schools in the country, we are under pressure because our capacity levels are being affected by unusually high levels of staff absence. It is therefore humbling to have received so many messages of support from our partner organisations and of course from all of you. The level of disruption we are all experiencing continues to test our resilience, but it certainly brings out the best in all our communities. This spirit of cooperation is hugely appreciated by me and all my team.

Yours sincerely



Saiqa Liaqat
Executive Headteacher