

Dear Parents and Carers

You will be aware that the Prime Minister recently announced that schools across England will remain closed except from for children of 'key workers' and certain other vulnerable children. The purpose of my letter is to ensure you have all the information necessary to support your family at home and to contact us if you need to. If you are reading this email via our website or social media channels, please ensure that you have provided us with an up-to-date email address by emailing sch.517@educ.somerset.gov.uk

In short, from today and until further notice, Holyrood Academy will only be open to the children of 'Key Workers', children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and those classed as 'vulnerable'.

Identifying Key Workers

Having been in this situation before, we now hold a little more information about the job roles our parents play in this situation. If you have heard yesterday's announcement you will have heard how important it is that **ONLY** these children remain in school. We must also remember that many of our staff have children who will need their parent at home, reducing further our capacity to have large numbers of students in school.

You can find out if you are classified as a Critical Worker [by checking this list.](#)

You can book your child a place at school [using this form.](#)

Supporting you

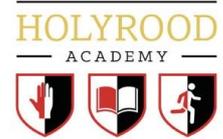
We will shortly contact families whose children usually receive Free School Meals so that provisions can be made for this while we are not fully open. If you are concerned or need urgent support, please contact the Main School Reception or your child's Year Leader. We can almost always help families who need it.

Families in our school who are supported by external agencies or with whom we have worked very closely due to a variety of vulnerabilities will be contacted by school staff or our PFSA on a regular basis throughout the period of closure and may be offered visits if it is appropriate.

Safeguarding

If you have a safeguarding concern about your child or any other child during this period of partial closure please would you contact Mr Rob Crocker at this email address rcrocker@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Mr Crocker will be assuming the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead at Holyrood for the foreseeable future, to lead us through this term at least.



Address Zembard Lane Chard, Somerset TA20 1JL
Contact tel: 01460 260100
Email sch.517@educ.somerset.gov.uk
Web www.holyrood.academy.com
Headteacher Dave MacCormick B.Sc Hons, M.Ed, MRes
Senior Deputy Headteacher Sam Davison BA Hons, MA
Deputy Headteacher Jonathan Black BA Hons
Deputy Headteacher Robert Crocker BA Hons
Assistant Headteacher Joanne James BA Hons
Assistant Headteacher Greg Ireland B.Sc
Business Manager Tina Coles DSBM

Our contact with you

Our staff will shortly be in touch with your child to check on their wellbeing and to help with any issues they are facing in their work. All staff who remain well enough to work are available for contact by email during the period of partial closure. Please find their email addresses here:

<https://www.holyroodacademy.com/academy/parentscarers/staff-list-2019-20/95/>

Exams

We have been told that we can expect changes to take place to GCSE, BTEC and A-Level examinations – we do not have the full detail of this yet, other than Mr Johnson stating that exams will not take place as planned. I will of course be in touch when we know more, which should be this afternoon. January exams for our Year 12 and 13 students are still scheduled to take place at the time of writing.

We absolutely appreciate what an incredibly difficult and anxious time this is for year 10 (who are due to sit their English Literature GCSE), year 11, year 12 and year 13 as well as their families. We will do everything within our power to support you with the right information as it is released to us. It is essential that all students preparing for exams (year 10, 11, 12 and 13) continue to complete all work set by their teachers as we are unsure of how grades will be determined.

Regardless, they will need the knowledge and skills they would gain over the coming weeks to prepare them for possible exams and future study and/or training. All students should keep completing all work set by their teachers.

What should students not at school do?

During the period of partial school closure we expect all students affected to continue with their learning in order to support their education. Teachers will continue to set appropriate work for every lesson that would appear on their normal timetable. A copy of your child's timetable will be emailed to you.

We strongly recommend that students are supported in replicating a school day. Setting up an area on your dining table or a desk where work is completed or ensuring there is a workstation next to a computer is essential. Students should have their books and equipment with them to enable focused working.

If you require support with technology, internet access, or you do not have the right device for your child to work effectively, please contact hict@educ.somerset.gov.uk or call school Reception on 01460 260100 and we can assist you with this.

If internet access or data is an issue for you, please contact us at the email address above and/or visit these sites where free additional data is available:

https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/pay-as-you-go-plans/schools-connected?utm_source=10ws.co&cid=aff-wvm/mltprd/1403995/prch/5.18/pid=4150339/affid=78888&awc=1257_1609857301_50cf9ecd7e998710748b58625181df7c
<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>

An exercise book and knowledge organiser will be sent home for your child and if you require additional stationery, please contact the main school office who will be happy to help you.

Students should be encouraged to **keep a normal school day routine**. They should get up and ready and have breakfast as usual, setting to work at their desk for 08:30. They should start the school day with 30 minutes of reading time. We would fully advise limiting background music and making sure there are no screens on during this time. Asking for mobile phones to be off and in a different room during school day hours would be beneficial to ensuring concentration on the work set. They should log into Google Classroom ([Remote Learning Guide Here](#)) where teachers will set work (with instructions) that is designed to last the hour. Students should complete the work for that hour in their exercise books or on the computer as normal.

Lessons will follow the format of:

1. A starter quiz that students should complete and then mark and correct in purple with the answers provided.
2. Remote learning from resources directed by the teacher such as a website, information sheet, presentation or video clip.
3. A task or series of tasks to complete based on the information.

Students will be actively encouraged to mark their work against answers and success criteria in purple and to extend their answers in purple pen to show how well they are learning. Teachers will be available to respond to queries via email and Google Classroom during these lesson times.

In addition to the lesson materials provided, Year 7, 8 and 9 students have their knowledge organisers on Google Classroom. Paper copies will be sent to you imminently.

Suggested timetable

08:35-09:00 Reading

09:00-10:00 Lesson 1

10:05-11:05 Lesson 2

11:05-11:25 Break away from the work environment

11:30-12:30 Lesson 3

12:35-13:35 Lesson 4

13:35-14:10 Lunch eaten away from the work environment.

14:10-15:10 Lesson 5

15:10-16:00 Reading and additional time for work and reading that was not completed during the day after parental checks.

What can parents do?

We ask that parents remove any devices during learning hours that are not being used to support the lesson. Mobile phones should be off and away from the workstation. Students should be encouraged to be methodical and organised and parents can support by checking regularly that they are able to proceed. Keeping to the school day routine and reading with your child are the most important things in trying to keep learning happening.

We have also attached a suggested weekly timetable tracker that may be beneficial when checking your son/daughter is keeping up to date with the work they have been set. Parents completing the timetable tracker at the end of each day is an essential part of keeping students working independently and would support a smooth transition when school reopens.

On their return to school, classes will be supported in lessons to assess for gaps in their learning, to address any misconceptions and be given assessments to help inform teacher planning.

We would like to thank you for your on-going support at this challenging time. If you have any questions you can contact staff members using the email addresses below and we will respond as quickly as we are able. If you would like to speak with me directly or are unsure where to direct your question please don't hesitate to contact me at dmacormick@educ.somerset.gov.uk

For updates on the school closure please check the school website after 4pm daily
www.holyroodacademy.com

Yours faithfully
Mr D MacCormick
Headteacher
Holyrood Academy