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19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure you are aware of the Government's decision to close all schools in England from Monday 23rd March 2020. The reason for this decision has been attributed to '*education and children's social care settings increasingly finding it difficult to continue as normal, as illness and self-isolation impacts on staffing levels and pupil attendance*'. Whilst we at Alde Valley Academy appreciate the past few weeks have been a challenge, I would like to publicly thank our wonderful staff for their dedication to the school and to your children.

To provide parents, student and staff with the certainty they need we are following the advice to close Alde Valley Academy to everyone except children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday, as part of the country's ongoing response to coronavirus. Examples of these workers include NHS staff, police and delivery drivers who need to be able to go to work. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans.

In order to plan for the cover required, I would appreciate it if keyworker parents or parents of vulnerable students could contact me in writing confirming that their children will continue to attend school on a daily basis.

Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care.

The Department for Education have also confirmed that they will not go ahead with examinations this summer, and that they will not be publishing performance tables for this academic year. Whilst this appears to be good news for our Year 11 students it saddens me that the huge amount of work carried out by our staff and students will go unrecognised in the traditional manner. Our recent Year 11 Mock examinations have shown that we were on course for a record-breaking set of GCSE results which would be nothing more than our students and staff deserved. We will work with the DfE and Ofqual to ensure children get the qualifications they need but would urge the Year 11 students to continue to work hard as the likelihood is that internal assessments carried out over this year will contribute towards the final grades awarded.

Over the past few weeks we have been making thorough plans to ensure that the disruption caused by any school closure would be kept to a minimum. Every student at Alde Valley Academy will receive regular work and assessments to coincide with the timetable that they will be given on Friday. Please remember that our staff are 'working from home' and therefore are available to set, support and assess student work.

Students have been issued with a support pack which includes guidance on how to access the learning platforms during the school closure together with important safeguarding information, contact details for key members of staff and information on accessing free school meal vouchers if your child is eligible for them. Rather than vouchers, just for next week, we are suggesting a packed-lunch for all students eligible for Free-School meals, regardless of whether they are in-school or not.



I apologise for any inconvenience that the school closure has caused to you and your family but we are living through unprecedented times and we must do all we can to minimise the impact of this virus.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at school if there is anything that I can do to support you or your children.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D. Mayhew
Headteacher