

20th March 2020

W: www.midlandacademiestrust.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers of vulnerable pupils and/or children of keyworker parents

Following Government guidelines and official advice received yesterday, The George Eliot School will be closing as of the end of school on Friday 20th March 2020 for the majority of pupils and staff. Details of the provision of our revised offer in response to government instructions is set out below for those parents of vulnerable children and those who have notified us that they are an essential keyworker. If workers think they fall within the critical categories set out by the government they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision.

On Monday 23rd March you should send your child to school as normal whilst we finalise arrangements for them. Currently it is our intention from Tuesday the 24th March the Midland Academies Trust will offer a joint school provision serving the George Eliot School, Hartshill School, Heath Lane Academy, and the Nuneaton Academy. This provision will be based on the site of North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College, Nuneaton Campus.

This will be staffed by teachers, leaders and support staff from across the Trust, who will work together to provide a provision for your child that delivers a broad and balanced curriculum offer. Your child will see a number of familiar faces in this provision from their Academy, and arrangements are being made to ensure the environment looks and feels similar to their school so that they feel at home. We have made the decision to do this jointly as currently our staffing availability make it difficult to do this alone as you will appreciate. Please be assured that the Trust has put robust plans in place to ensure that the vast majority of curriculum and business functions can continue during this enforced closure. Details of this are set out below:

- The provision will operate during school hours from 8.45am until 3.00pm with lessons starting at 9.00am.
- Pupils will have access to free school meals.
- Pupils will not be required to wear uniform, but should wear suitable and sensible clothing for a school environment.
- Transport will be provided if required from your child's home Academy to NWSLC Nuneaton Campus. If you need this please can you contact your child's School during the day on Friday 20th March so that these arrangements can be finalised. Drop off and pick up will of course commence ahead of and extend beyond the normal school day for obvious reasons. Confirmed timings will be issued to you in due course.
- Normal school behaviour systems, safeguarding and attendance systems will apply, however should you need to report your child absent you should use the following number: 02476 243039.
- If your child is not going to be accessing this provision at all, please can you inform us of this by emailing: Info@midlandacademiestrust.co.uk

In line with government guidance, if any one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days. Please do not send your child to school in this situation or send in siblings if one or more members of your household are isolating. In addition, all pupils who are identified as having 'increased risk' will be expected to remain at home from tomorrow onwards. The following is a direct copy of the government's guidance as to whom this includes:

Under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (i.e. anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):

- chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
- chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
- chronic kidney disease
- chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
- chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), a learning disability or cerebral palsy



- diabetes
- problems with your spleen – for example, sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed
- a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy
- being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
- those who are pregnant
- people who have received an organ transplant and remain on ongoing immunosuppression medication
- people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radiotherapy
- people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia who are at any stage of treatment
- people with severe chest conditions such as cystic fibrosis or severe asthma (requiring hospital admissions or courses of steroid tablets)
- people with severe diseases of body systems, such as severe kidney disease (dialysis)

If your child is in one of the vulnerable groups detailed above you must follow this advice and not send them to school. You must report their absence using the normal absence procedures. Where pupils are in self-isolation due to this government advice the Academies will authorise their absence, so this should not be a worry for parents. We recognise and understand that you may have concerns and ask for your support as we work together to ensure the good health of all of our staff, pupils and our local communities. We will keep staff, parents and pupils informed via social media and our website of any changes to the situation. Please continue to monitor the MILK app and the website for updated communications.

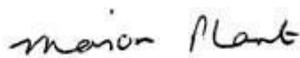
Our pupils remain our top priority, and therefore should they not attend this provision for any reason we would encourage you to support them in continuing to access school work and keeping up to date with learning as best as possible following the guidance and advice issued previously by us including:

- Using knowledge organisers for revision
- Hegarty maths
- Lesson work using booklets – copies of which can be found on the Academy website
- Homework set via Doodle by teachers
- You are also asked to maintain regular reading of fiction and non-fiction texts
- Revision for future exams and assessments
- Watching GCSE Pod clips
- Creating revision resources
- Homework from Educake

The web link: <http://www.george-eliot.warwickshire.sch.uk/links> has details of all of the above to help you. You will need to manage your time following the suggested topic areas and instructions for your year group on the web link above. If you have any questions or queries during our period of closure please email: Info@midlandacademiestrust.co.uk We will respond as soon as we are able. If your child is on site and you need to speak to us please contact us on: 02476 243039.

We continue to monitor the rapidly changing situation and will update you as things change. Thank you for your understanding and support during this situation and my very best wishes to you and your family at this very difficult time.

Best wishes



Marion Plant OBE
Chief Executive Officer



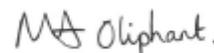
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