

ALEC REED ACADEMY

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Principal and CEO: Allison Moise-Dixon



10th June 2020

RE: COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that all is well with you and your families. As a parent and educationalist, I empathise with you all during this period of lockdown juggling home schooling, family life and work commitments whilst making sure all you love are healthy - physically and mentally. Even as the government announces 'easing' of the lockdown, many of us still have worries about what this will now mean for ourselves and our families.

In this context, schools have been asked by the government to open more widely to key year groups. Since the lockdown, the academy has continued to open for the children of key workers and vulnerable students. The number has increased throughout the lockdown and on average we now have around 30 children on a daily basis, mostly from the primary phase who are in this category. From the 15th June, we will be reopening the academy to key groups but in a very cautious and measured way in order to adhere to social distancing measures and to keep all within the academy community safe. We have very focused plans in place and these have been shared with the parents / carers of the key groups being welcomed back (nursery, reception, year 1, year 6, year 10 and year 12).

Due to the fact that we are an all through academy, it is even more important for us that we are confident in the measures put in place so that no child or staff member is put at any additional risk. Therefore, children will initially be invited back for a very small period of time in a day for the first two weeks whilst we monitor that our measures are clearly working before we invite more children back for longer periods. It is vital to us that we do everything possible to make sure that the right measures are in place to keep our community safe. We are pleased that to date, we have had no confirmed cases of coronavirus amongst either our staff or student community.

However, we are aware that this does mean that the majority of our students will remain at home for the rest of this academic year. We will therefore, continue to set online learning for our children and young people who are at home full time as well as for those who will be having some face to face time in the academy. To this end, we have reviewed our policy in the secondary phase. This will hopefully make it easier for your child to follow. Work will be posted daily with a clear schedule for what needs to be done. Our Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning, Ms Theron will send a letter to secondary phase parents/carers to lay this out in more detail.

I understand that this is a very confusing time for families as government guidelines are changing frequently. We will do our best to continue to keep you informed and notify you of any changes.

As part of our return to the DfE, they have asked if we have any children or families self-isolating in our academy community or who indeed have had COVID-19 confirmed by a test. Please do let us know if you or someone in your household has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). Similarly,

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if you, your child or someone in your household has symptoms of the coronavirus and your child has been invited into school, please keep them at home and notify the academy that you, your child or family are self-isolating.

As lockdown continues to ease, I have seen an increase in young people on the streets and in the parks. Please do speak to your child about the importance of social distancing. Although we know that the virus does not affect young people in the same way that it affects older people, young people should be aware that they can be carriers of the virus. Therefore, if they do not practice social distancing, they are increasing the likelihood of unknowingly infecting family at home or indeed members of the academy and indeed wider community.

Finally, should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the academy.

Warm regards and best wishes

Allison Moise-Dixon
Principal and CEO