

ALEC REED ACADEMY



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Acting Principal and CEO: Phil Cosby

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your families are all safe and well and managing to cope through this period of lockdown. Since January we have moved to our remote learning timetable and to support this we have distributed our allocation of laptops, provided by the DfE. We had to prioritise those most in need and I am sorry that we do not have enough for all our pupils. We have though provided information on how an Xbox or PlayStation can be adapted to run Office 365 and are currently sourcing Dongles and additional data to extend home learning opportunities for those that are still struggling to access this provision. It is really important that your child completes this learning so that they do not fall behind their peers during this period and that they continue to display high standards of behaviour whilst participating in the on-line learning.

Should you be encountering any issues or require any further support in relation to the remote learning or any aspect of your child's education then do please make contact with your child's Safe Worker or email enquiries@alecreedacademy.co.uk. We will do our best to resolve your concerns as quickly as possible.

On site we continue to provide a 'small school' provision for vulnerable children and those of critical workers. The safety of these staff and pupils is being maintained through the introduction of a Lateral Flow Testing centre. This means that we are now able to test all our staff on a weekly basis. We also have the capacity to test children in Year 7 and above, that are attending our small school provision. Contact will be made with parents this week to seek consent but it should be noted that these tests are not compulsory and permission can be withdrawn at any time.

In late November we had a remote Ofsted inspection to check how well we were coping with the issues created by Covid-19. A copy of this report is attached and can also be found on the academy website. These inspections are not graded but ours is positive and provides information regarding what we have put in place to cope with the current situation.

In the secondary phase we need to organise the options for the next academic year. To support this process, we will be using an online system called SchoolCloud and you will be able to make bookings with each member of staff that currently teaches your child. Parents with children in Years 8 and 11 will receive more information regarding these remote Parent Evenings once we have confirmed dates. The system will then be rolled out across other year groups over the remainder of the academic year.

I know that pupils in examination years will be particularly concerned regarding how their grades will be decided this year. We are waiting for more information from the government, but I believe that, should schools reopen in the summer term, it is likely that pupils will be asked to sit tests or "mini" exams, that will be marked by their teachers. They may also be expected to submit portfolios of work completed in the past two years – coursework and books. Teachers will also factor in participation levels and progress displayed during this period of remote learning.

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The Department for Education have requested that we continue to advise them of any positive cases of COVID-19 within our Academy community. Therefore if any pupils test positive whether they are pupils attending our small school or pupils who are at home learning remotely, please email the details to our attendance department Attendance@alecreedacademy.co.uk Please include the full name and year group of your child in the email header.

I am disappointed that we cannot remain open for all our children during this period but where possible we need to follow the government advice and stay at home. The rollout of the vaccine appears to be going well and I am hopeful that by February half term I will be able to write to you to invite your child to return to school.

In the meantime, I hope that you all stay safe and well.

Kind regards,

Phil Cosby
Acting Principal & CEO