

1 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Covid-19 Update & Easter Holidays

Firstly, I hope you and your families are well and keeping safe during these difficult times. As you know our staff have been doing all they can to keep our school open since this crisis began and along with the Wade Deacon Trust and our Local Governing Body, I would like to pay tribute to their remarkable commitment. They have been extraordinary and we will continue to play our part.

I can confirm **the school will remain open during the Easter break** for those students classed as vulnerable and those students whose parents / carers are classed as key workers. School will be open every day over the scheduled Easter break **including** Good Friday (10th April) and Easter Monday (13th April).

PLEASE NOTE: The provision on the Bank Holidays is **only for key workers** where this is no alternative.

If you require a place at Easter

If you require a place for your child(ren) over the Easter holiday, and you haven't already let us know, please could you e-mail info@thegrangeacademy.co.uk with the name(s) and dates you will need the provision.

The School Day & Office Opening Hours

The school will continue to be open for breakfast from 8.30am and close at 2.40pm for all students attending. Please can I ask that parents and carers pick up promptly so staff can support their own families. The office will continue to run on a reduced staff and the phone lines will only be open from 10.00am until 2.00pm during the Easter period.

Home Learning & Social Media

I am sure, like me, you have been extremely grateful for the daily competition, information and home learning set by the staff. Students need to be accessing the work to ensure they are not further disadvantaged when they return to school. Home learning tasks will continue after the Easter break but please be advised that from 3pm on Friday 3rd April until 8am on Monday 20th April, staff will not be expected to reply to e-mails regarding work from students and yourselves as it is the Easter Holidays.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

In terms of safeguarding, we have continued to monitor the safety and welfare of our students and kept the Local Authority updated daily. Daily phone calls and home visits have been a feature of our work to keep students safe; these will continue over the Easter period. Should you have any concerns you should e-mail Safeguarding@thegrangeacademy.co.uk.

Should you have concerns during the Easter break then you can e-mail the school but we would also advise you to contact the Local Authority ICART on 0303 333 4300 from 9am – 5pm. For any concerns outside these time please contact Social Care Emergency Duty Team on 0345 050 0148.

Further safeguarding information is available on the website using the link below;
<https://www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk/parents/safeguarding/>

Free Schools Meals and Food Provision

As you may be aware the government has announced a National Voucher Scheme to provide supermarket vouchers via e-mail through the Edenred Portal. At the time of writing I have not been provided with the links to be able to do this, and as such we will strive to have this fully available for Monday 20th April; please be mindful this is a new system for everyone.

If you are entitled to Free School Meals and have not provided the school with an up to date e-mail address then please can you do so as soon as possible by e-mailing info@thegrangeacademy.co.uk with your child(s) name and year group.

Students will continue to receive their free school meal, which can be collected from the school between **11.00am and 1.00pm**. This is available to **ALL STUDENTS** entitled to a free school meal. If they are self-isolating, a parent or carer could collect it from the school between these times. This will be in the form of a packed lunch until 3rd April. We will update you via Social Media once we have more details from the Local Authority.

Those students who may be in school and are not entitled to a free school meal will be provided with a meal as normal. We have also been in touch with the Local Food Banks who have provided us with information about how they can be accessed during this time. This information can be found using the link below;

<https://www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk/parents/coronavirus-guidance/>

Key Information

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that My Ed, our website and our social media accounts will be used as the official method of communication during the period of closure to ensure reliable and clear communication from the school.

Website: www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk

You Tube: The Grange School

Twitter: @Grange_School

Instagram: @thegrangeacademy

Facebook: @grangeacademy

Please continue to follow the government guidelines; stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives. Finally, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Ian Critchley
Principal