

# Dudley Academies Trust

Executive offices, Dudley College of Technology  
Priory Villa, 3a Ednam Road, Dudley, West  
Midlands, DY1 1HL  
Chair of Board of Trustees: Lowell Williams  
Chief Executive: Jo Higgins



03/04/20

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Re: Coronavirus update (COVID-19) #7 – Easter**

We now face the prospect of our Easter break and I think it is important that families use this time as far as they are able, to spend quality time with their children and reassure them during this difficult time. Please note the below updates for your information.

### **Official updates**

For official updates such as my Chief Executive letters to parents and carers, Principal Podcasts, Government updates and the latest safeguarding guidance, please continue to visit the COVID-19 section of each academy website. We will continue to provide up to date information on a regular basis from all official sources.

### **Helpline**

For any help or guidance regarding COVID-19 or Distance Learning please visit the Distance Learning, Additional Support tab on each academy website. There you will find the relevant contact details for your academy. We will aim to respond within five working days.

### **Free School Meals**

As of the 20th April 2020, each academy will be **using the new Government approved Free School Meal voucher scheme, instead of the current one**. If you are in receipt of a Free School Meal, you will be contacted by your academy directing you to the online form to register for the new scheme (*found under the Parents tab of each academy website*). This online form **must be completed by 3pm on Friday 10th April 2020**. If this form is not completed by this date, you will not be entered into the Department for Education Free School Meals voucher system.

### **Additional Support**

Please note you will find an Additional Support tab under our Distance Learning area on the website. This includes various resources and links to information regarding mental health support, learner wellbeing and how to keep fit at home. We will continue to populate this area with as much supporting information as possible to help during the Easter holidays.

### **Mind to be Kind & Commitments**

Each week, new content will be added for Mind to be Kind or Commitments. So, please ensure to take a look at this area if you want to encourage your child to be involved in the Mind to be Kind and Commitments activities.

### **Online Safety**

Also on the website under the Distance Learning tab you will find a section titled Online Safety. This area provides various materials (for learners, parents and carers) regarding how you and your child can stay safe whilst online. Don't forget to check out the Think u Know #OnlineSafetyAtHome section of this area. Fortnightly materials and help sheets will be available for all the family.

(continued)



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## Year 11

Please ensure to read my most recent letters, Chief Executive Update 5 & 6, which contain information regarding examinations and applications to our sponsor, Dudley College of Technology. Please see the COVID-19, Chief Executive updates section of the website for this information.

## Distance Learning

When we return, we are introducing a time table for all learners that will comprise of two forty five minutes lessons in the core subjects (mathematics, English and Science), six lessons in total, per week. Our subject Directors are co-ordinating this with Curriculum Team Leaders. Lessons will be pre-recorded with teacher voiceover to improve learner engagement. Following the lessons, learners will be able to upload work so that teachers can feedback and assess as appropriate. This will provide us with the opportunity to reward learners who are working hard.

When we have completed the first week of pre-recorded lessons we will share our learning and good practice with other departments to enable us to gradually introduce more subjects into the school week. Academy life will continue to be far from normal but we need to encourage learners to maintain good learning habits. We will also be able to track learners' engagement and will contact any learners who do not 'attend' their timetabled sessions.

Please encourage your child to continue to engage with the different areas of our Distance Learning section on the website. The Distance Learning section of the website sub divides into individual areas for each year group. In each year group area you will find links to online learning platforms such as Century AI, Hegarty Mathematics, Britannica and GCSE Pod (if applicable), alongside various learning resources. We will continue to update our websites and information regarding learning resources and distance learning methods as often as possible.

So, that is our plan for the summer term. In the meantime, please try to rest and relax.

We all support our front line workers and I am delighted to inform you that we are donating resources from our science departments across the Trust to the NHS.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and our central team, I wish you a happy and safe Easter holiday.

Yours faithfully

Jo Higgins  
Chief Executive



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