



# Whitburn Church of England Academy

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing

Whitburn, Sunderland, SR6 7EF Principal: J E Crowe B.A. (Hons)  
Telephone: 0191 529 3712 Facsimile 0191 529 5569 E-mail: office@whitburncofeacademy.org

*'Excellence for All'*

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Academy Closure

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your continued support over the past few weeks during these unprecedented times. Despite continued conflicting and piecemeal guidance and instruction from central government, the school has managed to operate and function successfully throughout the early stages of this pandemic.

I appreciate that as we have now entered the “delay” phase in an attempt to limit the spread of the virus, we have now started to encounter a number of new problems. Following the recent social distancing measures announced this week, we as a school are finding this challenging in terms of being able to ensure we have enough staff in the school to make sure that our students are kept safe, supported and supervised.

The advice states that anyone living alone with symptoms of the Coronavirus such as a high temperature and/or new continuous cough must self-isolate for a period of 7 days from when the symptoms started. If you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. Further guidance relating to more ‘vulnerable groups’ such as those who have asthma, diabetes and a number of other underlying health conditions advises them to be “particularly stringent” in adhering to social distancing measures. Consequently, this ‘vulnerable’ advice has resulted in a significant number of teaching, support and catering staff having to self-isolate at home, which has substantially reduced our staff to student ratios.

As a result of this unprecedented situation, the Governing body and I have sadly had to take the decision to close the school for a minimum of 14 days. We will of course monitor the situation on a daily basis and continue to keep all informed via our school website and our social media platforms.

This is very much uncharted territory for us all and I do not want our students, parents and carers to worry unnecessarily. We have ensured that our students will not be disadvantaged and will continue to have access to learning materials and educational resources. Students must continue to have good learning routines on the days that they are not at school and complete all of the work set by their teachers. We would appreciate that parents and carers support this completion of tasks to ensure that students keep up to date and make progress with their learning. Staff will be adding to this resource bank on a regular basis to ensure that the supply of work is plentiful and accessible for all.

PTO

**Document available in large font, alternative language or audio format on request**



Whitburn Church of England Academy is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (Company Number 07465520)  
Registered Office: Whitburn Church of England Academy, Whitburn, Sunderland, SR6 7EF

Students can access work via the school website <https://www.whitburncofeacademy.org/>  
Please navigate on the homepage to 'pupil' and access the work appropriate for each year group.

**Please see the appendix at the end of this letter to show how to access this.**

Information relating to any examination news for Year 11 and 13 will be made available through the school website and Office365. We, of course are waiting from further direction from the Department of Education regarding any forthcoming public examinations. Year 10 are currently part way through their mock examinations and we will rearrange the remainder of these in due course.

### **Year 11 Geography Students**

Year 11 students studying Geography are due to be issued with their Paper 3 pre-release tomorrow; this will still go ahead. We would like Year 11 Geographers – who will need to sign for their pre-release – to come in to school between 12-1pm tomorrow, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

### **Year 13 students ONLY**

Year 13 ONLY will also be allowed to attend the Sixth Form block at this time (12-1pm) to empty lockers. No other students should be on site at this time.

### **Medication on site for students**

If any parents/carer's wish to collect their child's medication, which is stored on-site, can collect this at 12-1pm tomorrow; please bring identification so we can release the medication into your care.

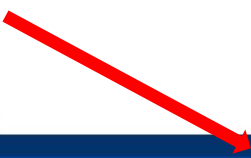
The [office@whitburncofeacademy.org](mailto:office@whitburncofeacademy.org) email address will be operating throughout this closure period and we will be able to respond to some essential queries or concerns via this channel only. Please continue to view the website for any further announcements relating to this unforeseen closure, including any information relating to reopening. As a school community I am grateful for your continued support during these troubled times. I am hopeful that by working together we are able to support our students as best as possible under very trying circumstances.

Yours faithfully



**J E Crowe  
Principal**

Accessing school closure work for students:



A screenshot of the Whitburn Church of England Academy website. The browser address bar shows 'https://www.whitburncfeschool.org/'. The website header is dark blue with the school crest on the left and the text 'Whitburn Church of England Academy' in the center. Below the name is the motto 'Excellence for All'. A horizontal navigation menu contains links for Home, About Us, School Life, News and Events, Sixth Form, Community, and Teaching. On the right side, a vertical dropdown menu is open, listing links for Pupil, Parents, Staff, Governors, Vacancies, and work materials for Years 7 through 13. Below the main navigation, there is a large image of a young woman with blue face paint, smiling. At the bottom of the page, there are navigation arrows and a Windows taskbar.