



The Totteridge Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Dear Parents/Carers,

Temporary Closure of The Totteridge Academy

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that all schools in England will close temporarily for the vast majority of children from end of the day on Friday 20th March.

This decision has been taken on the advice of medical and scientific experts in order to manage the spread of COVID-19 and relieve pressure on the health system.

From Monday 23rd March, most students' education will continue from home.

We have prepared well for these circumstances so that all our students can continue their education from home during the closure: on Wednesday all of our students were given home learning packs in assemblies with very clear instructions as to how to manage their days while not at school. I will also send all of this information out to you so that you are aware of our expectations of how learning will continue while students are at home, and how you can best support your child. This information is vitally important for any students who did not attend school on Wednesday.

The Academy will, however, remain open for some specific groups of students:

- Those whose parents are defined as key workers. The cabinet office will release details of what defines a key worker this week, but broadly it includes those employed in the NHS, emergency services or elements of the food supply chain;
- Those who are particularly vulnerable;
- Those who have an EHCP.

I would ask that parents who believe they fall into the category of key workers contact Sarah Webster sarah.webster@tta.org.uk as soon as possible and no later than 12 noon on Friday 20th March so that we can arrange for your child to continue to attend school.

We will be identifying those students who are in the vulnerable category and will be contacting their parents and carers separately. If you believe your child falls into this category and you have not heard from us by 9am on Friday 20th March, please contact us on the above email address.

We will also be contacting all parents of students who have EHCPs so that we can arrange for their education to continue face-to-face.

Furthermore, we will be finalising how we can ensure that students on Free School Meals will receive entitlement to food. We will be doing everything we can to deliver whatever is required of us by the Government.

The Government has decided that no external exams will take place this academic year. Over the coming days, they will announce plans for how those due to sit them this year will be able to gain their qualifications. As soon as we have more clarity on this, we will issue guidance to our Y11 pupils and their parents.

Principal: Chris Fairbairn

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Registered address: United Learning, Worldwide House, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough, PE3 6SB.

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It may be that teacher assessments and predicted grades will be used. If so, it is possible that we will need to justify our assessed grades using pupils' work on paper and in books. For pupils in Year 11, therefore, while preparation for traditional exams will not be the focus, we are likely still to want to work intensively with them in the coming weeks so that whatever is ultimately assessed for qualifications is representative of each pupil's best ability.

We are entering times of further uncertainty, speculation and concern and our responsibility as a school, like yours as a parent, is to give our young people the learning, support and reassurance that they will need in the coming weeks.

We will continue to update parents on a regular basis with important information as we receive it. We will continue to communicate with you by email but please do regularly check on the school's website.

Thank you for your continued support and for working with us in the weeks ahead.

Chris Fairbairn

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