



# Padgate Academy

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Principal: Mrs M Barclay BSc (Hons) NPQH

Our ref: MBA/MSI

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you so much for your patience and support whilst we have responded to an unprecedented situation that is changing on an hourly basis. We have often received information at the same time as the rest of the country and it has been challenging to respond to the many changes that have taken place. I still find it difficult to comprehend that I am now writing to you to inform you, as per the Government announcement on Wednesday, that the Academy will close at the end of today for the majority of students until further notice. We will be opening to support children of key workers and vulnerable students.

### Continuing Learning

On Tuesday, every student was given details about how work will be available for them to access through the online learning portal on our website. It is vital that students do not just see this as a long holiday. We expect them to access the subjects in line with their normal timetable across each school day. By doing this they will retain the skills and knowledge they have acquired at the Academy, but also this will prepare them for future learning when the Academy is able to open again.

Students expected to attend the Academy as one of the identified groups will have a collapsed timetable taught by their teachers. Again, this is to ensure that they are ready for when the Academy is able to open again.

Should students have questions about specific areas of study we would encourage them to contact the academy using [info@padgateacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@padgateacademy.co.uk). Please be aware that staff themselves may be suffering from illness or other factors that may prevent them responding. In this case we will do all we can to respond, but we would appreciate your understanding that this may not be immediate.

### Safeguarding

We anticipate that the majority of students who work closely with our pastoral team will be attending school where our pastoral team will be on hand. There may be some who are not part of the identified group. The pastoral team will continue to work closely with these families to offer support where needed and will contact parents to explain how this will take place. The Pastoral team will continue to engage with external agencies to make sure that support is available if needed.

### Free School Meals

We are still awaiting clarity on the voucher system mentioned by the Government on Wednesday for families in receipt of free school meals. In the absence of this we have purchased vouchers from a leading supermarket and will distribute these as soon as they arrive. Provision for students attending the Academy will continue for those who are eligible.

### Year 11

No further information is available yet for students who would have been sitting GCSE exams this year. We will contact parents separately about this when the position is made clearer. However, it is important to recognise the maturity and resilience we have seen from year 11 over the last few days in what is an incredibly unsettling time.



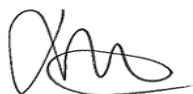
Please be assured that we will celebrate the end of year 11 with them in all the usual ways once we are able to. Goodbye today is not goodbye forever!

Finally, I would like to thank every member of the Padgate community in these unprecedented times. Staff have gone above and beyond to keep the Academy running and I am thankful for everything they have done and continue to do. It is in time of challenge that we see the very best in people and I have witnessed this in abundance over the last few days.

Please continue to monitor our social media channels as we will continue to share information with you. Thank you for being patient with us and for the many messages we have received to offer support.

I wish you all the very best over the next few weeks and I look forward to welcoming everyone back when we are able to open fully.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Barclay  
Principal

