

Dear Parent/carer,

Principal: Mrs N Walker

I hope my communication today finds you all safe and well and that your children are adapting well to the remote learning provision we have in place. Thank you for your ongoing support at this incredibly challenging time. I wanted to contact you today to provide you with further information about our plans given the Prime Minister's announcement at 8:00pm last night.

### **Our remote learning provision for pupils and students**

We are committed to providing the best education provision we can for our pupils and students who are learning remotely. We believe that the best way to do this is via our online platform Microsoft Teams providing pupils and students with live learning. As we look to the days and weeks ahead our teachers will continue to deliver live lessons to pupils and students in all year groups in the vast majority of subjects. Where this is not feasible, for example in some practical subjects, teachers will ensure that purposeful assignments are set for pupils to complete and return. In addition to this, all pupils will be expected to engage in a form learning sessions on a daily basis. We will use this session to ensure that all of our pupils can continue to access any appropriate support as they require it.

Moving forward, if you experience any issues with our online remote learning and require technical support then please contact the following email address where support can be [techsupport@accordmat.org](mailto:techsupport@accordmat.org)

### **Pupil and student engagement in remote learning**

Our remote learning is compulsory for all pupils and as such we are asking all teachers to track pupil engagement on a lesson by lesson basis. It is our intention to communicate regularly with parents around the engagement of pupils in our remote learning provision. Contact will be made with parents where pupils do not appear to be engaging with remote learning. This will be to ensure that the correct support is provided for all pupils, so they do not miss out on their education. In extreme cases, where we see a continued pattern of poor engagement, we will be asking those pupils to return to academy site as part of our Emergency Care Provision.

In addition to securing engagement with learning, we are working with teachers to ensure that our pupils continue to be recognised for their hard work remotely during this period of lockdown. We appreciate that the vast majority of our pupils have tried and continue to try incredibly hard when working remotely. As such, parents who have the MCAS app will continue to receive positive notifications from teachers when pupils go above and beyond in their learning. We hope these messages allow you to celebrate the remote work your child is doing during lockdown.

### **Emergency Care Provision**

The Academy continues to offer provision for pupils who are children of key workers, or to those children who are considered vulnerable during this period of national lockdown. If you wish to

access this provision, and have not informed us of this already, please complete the form attached and provide us with all relevant information. In this provision pupils will access the same online learning as their peers working from home whilst being supervised in classrooms. [Emergency Care Provision](#)

## **MCAS App**

Moving forward we will be using the MCAS service to provide parents with more information, including positive recognition. We would like to remind all parents who have not yet downloaded the app to do so using the following information: [My Child At School \(MCAS\) app](#)

## **Examinations in summer and January**

The Department for Education are yet to provide schools with any further information in relation to the cancellation of GCSE examinations in the summer. As soon as we have this information we will ensure that all pupils and parents are informed. As such, it is vital that pupils in examination groups continue to engage with our remote learning provision.

The external vocational examinations that are scheduled to take place next week continue to go ahead at this stage. Please accept my apologies for any confusion caused to parents following the Prime Minister's announcement last night. All pupils who are due to sit examinations will be offered additional exam support remotely ahead of their exams. Details of these sessions have been shared directly with pupils and their parents.

## **Parent Consultations evening in Year 10**

Given the Academy's closure our planned Parents' evenings next week for year 10 will now no longer go ahead. This will be scheduled for later in the year where possible. In place of this we will look to run a live event via Microsoft Teams that is intended to provide parents with information relating to remote working and the Academy's response to this moving forward. This event will also give parents the opportunity to raise any questions. Further information in relation to this will be emailed to the parents of pupils in year 10 in the near future.

## **Making contact with the academy**

If you need to make contact with the academy during this period of closure we would advise all parents and carers to contact the academy via [enquiries@horbury.accordmat.org](mailto:enquiries@horbury.accordmat.org) in the first instance, alternatively please call 01924 282740

## **Free School Meals**

Given our continuing national COVID pandemic and its impact economically, I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that should you have found that your work situation has changed recently and you feel you may now qualify for income related free school meals – please follow the link below to Wakefield Council's website for advice on who is eligible and how to apply. If you require any support with this application, please make contact with the Academy as directed above.

[Free school meals - Wakefield Council](#)

Once again I would like to thank all parents and pupils for their continued support during these difficult times. I fully appreciate the challenges the closure of schools brings to parents and as an Academy we are committed to doing everything we can to support our pupils and their families during this time. If you do require any further support, please make contact with the Academy, where we will hope to facilitate this for you.

Best wishes,



Mrs N Walker  
Principal