



# Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Alex Pearson – Executive Principal

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19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Letter to parents – school closure

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may have heard, yesterday the government announced that all schools must close to the majority of pupils due to the Coronavirus. The information contained in this letter is based on the information currently available from the government. We expect further announcements imminently and will advise you of any further developments tomorrow.

As a consequence, Harriers will close from the end of the school day this Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until further notice. We will keep our website updated with any information about the date of reopening. We will, however, remain open to provide care for the children of key workers and for vulnerable children who have a social worker or an Education Health Care Plan. For these children the school day will start and finish at exactly the same times as now. There will be no after school clubs. There will also be no wraparound care except for breakfast clubs which will operate from 8.30 am. We are working hard to provide food for the breakfast club, but at the moment this cannot be guaranteed.

If you work in any of the following jobs, you are classified as a key worker:

- Doctor
- Nurse
- Midwife
- Paramedic
- Health Staff looking after Vulnerable or elderly
- Other Health related worker
- Police
- Fire Brigade
- Other Community Safety
- Teacher, TA or work in a school setting (including pre-school)
- Supermarket Workers
- Delivery Drivers
- Anyone working in "critical infrastructure" - (gas and electricity)
- Prison officers and some other Prison staff
- Armed forces
- Pharmacy staff

If this applies to you and you want your child cared for at school please complete the attached form and ensure your child brings it with them on Monday morning when they attend school. They should arrive at the main school hall for registration and give it to a member of staff.

If your child is classed as a vulnerable child they can also continue to attend the academy.

For all other students whose parents are not classified as key workers school or are not vulnerable children, the academy is closed for the foreseeable future. During the period of closure, teachers will be setting appropriate work for all students. A home learning pack was sent home with your child (or delivered for your child). In it were your logins for Seesaw and Tapestry (EYU). These sites will be the main source of communication with class teachers. They will set work via these sites. There are also many website links for home learning on our school website at [www/https.harriers-aspirations.org](http://www/https.harriers-aspirations.org) .



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Our expectation is that students should complete all of the work set by their teachers and should aim to work from home during normal school hours.

If your child received Free School Meals, we are making arrangements to continue these in the form of a packed lunch. If you are not in school, we are arranging a distribution point from Wykham Park Academy. We will contact you to confirm you wish to receive your packed lunch.

During any period of school closure, our primary concern remains the safety and well being of our pupils. To maintain contact with families where there are any specific pupil needs, you may use email to contact us as below:

- Mr Pearson ([alexpearson@aspirationsacademies.org](mailto:alexpearson@aspirationsacademies.org)) and
- Mrs Agate ([jagate@harriers-aspirations.org](mailto:jagate@harriers-aspirations.org))

We will continue to check the school office email daily. It is important that these contacts be used only for emergency messages and urgent queries and not for day to day contact with teachers.

### **Welfare & Safeguarding Information**

We appreciate this is a difficult time. If you require additional support during the school closure, here is a list of key agencies you may find helpful, and there is further information on our website:

- Reporting a safeguarding concern: Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (**MASH**) – **0345 050 7666**
- **All families with a Social Worker or Early Help Support Worker** – these workers are your first point of contact in the case of an emergency. Telephone: **01865 328440** (for Family Solutions, Early Help and enquiries about FoodBank Vouchers)
- Safeguarding Children in Banbury: <https://scib.info/>
- Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board: <https://www.oscb.org.uk/public/parents-carers/>
- Foodbank vouchers
  - **The Early Intervention Hub** (Hilton Road) can issue, following initial conversation to assess level of need.
  - **Health Visitors** can also issue Foodbank Vouchers.
- Health Queries: 111
- Police (non-emergency): 101

In England and in Wales, all exams in May and June have been cancelled, including GCSEs and A-levels as well as England's primary school national curriculum tests, known as SATs. As soon as we are informed by the government we will write to parents to explain how student grades will be awarded this year. The Government has already provided reassurances that students can expect to be awarded GCSE and A-level grades this summer and we are expecting that this will be through a combination of teachers' assessments, students' previous work and perhaps further sources of evidence. We expect to be able to update you about this soon.

Whilst our immediate concern is the health and safety of our pupils and families, clearly the longer-term impact is a concern too. It is too early to give a definitive answer, but we are confident that the government is exploring all possible scenarios and options and we will continue to be involved in these discussions.

We would urge you to follow the latest government advice regarding the virus, which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

As we receive further information on the closure for parents it will be posted on the school website.

We wish you well during this very difficult time and look forward to seeing you all again as soon as we are able to reopen our school. **IF THE ATTACHED FORM APPLIES TO YOU PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD RETURNS IT TO SCHOOL TOMORROW MORNING AND GIVES IT TO A MEMBER OF STAFF.**

Yours sincerely,



Mr Alex Pearson, Executive Principal

## Harriers Banbury Academy

### Parental Feedback Form – Key Worker Audit

This form aims to collate information from parents regarding whether they have key worker status so that we can continue to provide care for their children during the coronavirus pandemic.

Full Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a working parent? **Yes/No**

Are you able to work from home? **Yes/No/Not applicable**

Do you consider yourself a "key worker"? (*A key worker is defined as somebody who works within the public sector and whose continuing employment is deemed crucial to both the economy and in helping to battle the infection*) **Yes/No**

If you consider yourself as a key worker, please circle the appropriate job below:

- Doctor
- Nurse
- Midwife
- Paramedic
- Health Staff looking after Vulnerable or elderly
- Other Health related worker
- Police
- Fire Brigade
- Other Community Safety
- Teacher, TA or work in a school setting (including pre-school)
- Supermarket Workers
- Delivery Drivers
- Anyone working in "critical infrastructure" - (gas and electricity)
- Prison officers and some other Prison staff
- Armed forces
- Pharmacy staff
- Other:

If you have listed a specific role above, would you likely need your child in school to support you in your role during the period of school closure? **Yes/No**

If you are a key worker or your child is classed as a vulnerable pupil, do you intend to send your child into the Academy from next Monday? **Yes/No**

If you are a key worker, do you intend to send your child to school for the period of the Easter holiday? **Yes/No**

Please note: our aim is to reduce the number of children in the school and keep everyone safe, so we appreciate you making alternative arrangements wherever possible.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Alex Pearson  
Executive Principal