



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Alex Pearson – Executive Principal

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Letter to parents – school closure

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may have heard, tonight the government has announced that all schools must close to the majority of pupils due to Covid-19. As a consequence, Harriers Banbury Academy will close with effect from today the 4th January 2021 until further notice, possibly until after February half-term. We will, however, remain open to provide care for the children of key workers and for vulnerable children. For these children the school day will start and finish at exactly the same times as now. There will be no breakfast club or after school club until further notice.

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

- NHS staff
- Police
- Supermarket delivery drivers
- Supermarket staff
- Pharmacy staff
- Fire service
- Armed services
- Teachers
- School staff
- Child care/carers
- If your role is not on this but you believe you are a key worker then please contact the school tomorrow.

Vulnerable pupils are those who:

- Have an EHCP
- Have a social worker
- LAC

If your child is eligible for a key worker or vulnerable pupil place then you may attend school at the usual time tomorrow. Both parents/carers must be key workers to qualify for an emergency key worker place tomorrow. At some point tomorrow we will send out a survey so all parents of key worker pupils can book places for the rest of term. Come to the hall entrance.

For all other students whose parents are not classified as key workers 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. This can be accessed through Seesaw and/or Tapestry. Class teachers can also be contacted about schoolwork via Seesaw.

Our expectations of pupils are that they should complete all of the work set by their teachers and should aim to work from home during normal school hours.



Aspirations – Company Registration Number: 07867577
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Even during a period of school closure, our primary concern is the safety of our pupils. We have identified Mrs Hawkins as a trained member of staff who has been designated to maintain regular contact with families where there are specific pupil needs. Please contact her if your child requires any welfare support throughout the lockdown at nhawkins@harriers-aspirations.org

During the period closure, the office email office@harriers-aspirations.org will be available for parents to contact the school. It is important that this contact is only used for emergency messages and urgent queries and not for day to day contact with teachers. This address will be monitored daily by staff from the academy.

We will be providing lunches for pupils eligible for Free School Meals. Details of this provision will be confirmed in the next day or two.

Whilst our immediate concern is the health and safety of pupils and their families, clearly the longer-term impact is a concern too. Whilst it is too early to give a definitive answer on this, we are confident that government is currently 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 on the government's website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

We only heard about these school closures at the same time as yourselves. We will continue our planning of our school and home learning provision tomorrow and as we receive further information on the closure it will be shared via School Ping and Seesaw.

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.

Yours faithfully,



Alex Pearson
Executive Principal