



19th March 2020

Coronavirus: Trust Update no. 3

I think we are all still absorbing yesterday's news of mass school closures. Many young people will be desperately disappointed that they will not be taking their exams in May and June and worried about the impact this may have on their future. However, key groups, such as professional associations and the Confederation of School Trusts, are contributing to government discussions so that the short-term and long-term needs of young people are being represented.

Please be reassured that we will continue to provide you with information directly from the government via regular Trust updates and will be supporting all our pupils and their families throughout this period.

Headteachers across the Trust were together yesterday to hear the announcement and will be in their schools today, putting plans into action. We have two immediate priorities:

- to identify the number of children who will be in our schools from Monday 23rd March onwards;
- to ensure that work is available for all those learners who will be at home from Monday 23rd onwards.

1. Closure and Pupil Survey

The government has ordered the closure of all schools with effect from Monday 23rd March **apart** from children whose parents/carers are designated as key workers. In addition to this group, other pupils may also be included (those with an EHCP, for example).

The Cabinet Office is presently refining its list of key workers and confirming which other pupils should continue to attend school. As soon as we have this information, you will receive a link to a short survey (we will keep questions to a minimum). In order for schools to plan effectively for next week and beyond, it would be extremely helpful if the survey could be completed by midday tomorrow (Friday 20th March).

2. Providing Work

All schools in the Trust will be checking that pupils understand where to find work and have the equipment that they need. As stated yesterday, we cannot replicate the timetable or teaching that would be taking place ordinarily, but staff will do their very best to provide quality work.

Please do not worry if problems or questions over work emerge in the coming weeks. Staff teams and the Central Office will remain fully operational and able to respond to any issues.

3. Free School Meals/Vouchers

Children coming to school will be catered for. However, we are reliably informed that there will be a co-ordinated approach to providing free school meals and the Department for Education will take the lead on this. Information will be circulated as soon as possible.

4. Examination Arrangements

The decision to cancel all examinations at all Key Stages will have come as a shock to many. However, there are clearly plans evolving, particularly for GCSE and A Level students and more detail should be forthcoming

over the next week. It is our current understanding that GCSEs and A-levels will be awarded on the basis of moderated assessment co-ordinated by the exam boards and Ofqual. In any adverse situation affecting examinations, Ofqual always works to ensure that no student is disadvantaged. The important message is this: both Stowupland and the Trust have excellent relationships with FE and HE providers, so please try not to worry.

5. Useful Contact Numbers

Bacton Primary School:	01449 781367	admin@bacton-pri.suffolk.sch.uk
Cedars Park Primary School:	01449 778230	admin@cedarspark.suffolk.sch.uk
Mendlesham Primary School:	01449 766224	admin@mendleshamschool.org.uk
Stowupland High School:	01449 674827	enquiries@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk
JMAT Centre:	01449 742422	

enquiries@johnmiltonacademytrust.co.uk

Schools and the Trust will continue to provide safeguarding support to all pupils and families. If you have any safeguarding concerns during school closures, please use the email addresses and numbers above. The matter will be dealt with either by a designated safeguarding lead in your child's school or a Trust officer.

6. COVID-19: Helplines Available

- Diabetes UK has provided an [updated information page](#) for people living with diabetes;
- Asthma UK has released a [blog post with advice for people with asthma](#);
- The British Heart Foundation has published [guidance for people with health problems](#);
- The National Eczema Society has offered [advice on handwashing techniques](#) for people with eczema and other skin conditions;
- SignHealth has created [British Sign Language \(BSL\) videos](#) to help deaf BSL users either working in charities or receiving support;
- Carers UK has produced [recommendations for carers](#);
- The [Cystic Fibrosis Trust](#), [Primary Immunodeficiency UK](#) and the [Mental Health Foundation](#) have all issued advice and support;
- <https://youngminds.org.uk/> Parents' helpline 0808 802 5544;
- www.samaritans.org.uk Phone: 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline);
- www.sane.org.uk/support Phone 0300 304 7000.

We are also in the process of compiling a list of **local organisations** that are able to provide support to all families and young people.

7. Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687
Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk
Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Please note that the helpline is reporting a high volume of calls.

And finally.....

We will definitely be keeping in touch with everyone and hope to upload video footage so you can keep in touch with what is going on in your school and also across the Trust. We will also be launching some Trust-wide competitions, so watch this space!

Bacton
Primary School

Cedars Park
Primary School

Mendlesham
Primary School

Stowupland
High School

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