



Woodkirk Academy
&
The Sixth Form @ Woodkirk Academy

E-Newsletter

Date: 1 May 2020

Dear Parents and Students

I hope that this e-newsletter finds you well and serves to update you with useful information during our extended closure.

Firstly, with regards to the work being set for students to undertake remotely. Teachers will continue to set work for students to complete, which will be shared via the school website and in Pupilshare. We have received some great feedback about the quality of the work being set; my thanks go to the teachers for their efforts to ensure learning can continue as best as possible. We have also been made aware that some students are putting undue pressure on themselves to complete all of the work that is being suggested. Teachers are setting ample work to ensure that all students have plenty to do. Students, however, should not be completing work every hour of every day. As I have said in previous e-newsletters, it is important that students have a break from their studies, relax and do something they enjoy as well. To help with this we are suggesting as a rough guide, that students should spend approximately the same amount of time completing work for a given subject as they would have during lessons for that subject in a week.

If students have any questions or queries about the work set, they should not hesitate to contact their teachers by email between 9 am and 3 pm. Teachers will respond as soon as possible. Please be mindful that their working patterns may be different due to their home circumstances during this time so please do not expect an immediate response. Teachers may request that some tasks are submitted to assist with monitoring progress and to provide feedback to students.

In addition, teachers will be contacting students in the coming week to encourage and support them further with the work set. Please ask your son/daughter to log in regularly to their school email account to check for these messages.

There is now a national support service, StarLine, in place, which will offer advice to families on how to educate their children at homes while schools are closed. The service, launched by a coalition of academy trusts and parenting groups, will also provide advice to parents on how to deal with difficult behaviour. StarLine will be run by a team of teachers and education and parenting experts, who will share tips and resources to help home-learning. The number to call is 0330 3139162 and calls are charged at a local rate. See <https://www.starline.org.uk/>



During these restrictions we understand that it is a challenge to ensure that we do enough physical activity to maintain a healthy lifestyle. With this in mind, the PE department have decided to try and motivate our students and their families to stay active. In their words:

“We will be uploading regular videos of staff completing challenges/workouts. Take a look, have a go and see if you can get all the family involved.” To access the videos please visit our Instagram page by searching:

woodkirkacademype

If nothing else we hope it will lift your spirits seeing some of the staff struggling to complete the challenges/workouts.’

My thanks go to the staff who have volunteered to take part in this.

We do understand that as well as physical health this is a challenging time mentally as well. The Leodis Support Service pages on the school website, accessed via the Parents section, have a number of resources to help with those who are experiencing difficulties across a wide range of issues. You will also find contact details for that service listed should you require them.

Year 13 students moving on to University in the Autumn Term may want to use this time to start the process of applying for a student loan should they require one. The Student Loans Company has confirmed that the application service will remain open to students as part of its response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and are encouraging students in England to apply for student finance as soon as possible to ensure their finances are in place for the new academic year. New students are being asked to submit their applications before 22 May 2020. Applications for student finance can be made by [clicking here](#).

[UCAS Extra](#) remains open until 5 July for applicants who have used all their five choices and are not currently holding any offers, giving students the opportunity to consider an alternative course choice or university closer to home. Applicants who have not yet applied in this cycle can still make a main scheme application until 30 June so there is still time to research options online, to apply for 2020 entry and secure a place before clearing.

For ease of access, I have included contact details for the following regular reminders:

- Hardship or becoming eligible for free school meals please email Mrs J Hudson HUDSON.J@WOODKIRKACADEMY.COM or contact the school by phone or text 07503 091455.
- Period products:
Please do contact Mrs Standage at [standage.j@woodkirkacademy.com](mailto:STANDAGE.J@WOODKIRKACADEMY.COM) or Miss Broadbent at [Broadbent.I@woodkirkacademy.com](mailto:BROADBENT.I@WOODKIRKACADEMY.COM) who have information about where you can obtain these.
- For safeguarding or child protection queries, please email Mr Currie at [currie.d@woodkirkacademy.com](mailto:CURRIE.D@WOODKIRKACADEMY.COM)

Public Health England has published guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at risk or has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. [Click here](#) to view the guidance.

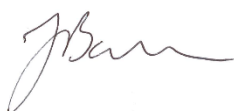


We would also ask that we all continue to follow the government guidelines to stay home and stay safe as well as social distancing, which can be found by [clicking here](#).

Finally, to our students, we would like you all to know how much we miss you and look forward to a time when schools can begin to open again. You are doing a great job at keeping up with your studies and we want you to know that we support and encourage you with this. Thank you to Mr Lazarus and Mr Gage who have kindly put together the following video of messages from the staff at Woodkirk Academy to you, our students and your families. [Click here](#) to view.

Please all stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely



J Barton
Principal

Safeguarding

With young people likely to be spending an increased amount of time online, there is a greater risk that they may be exposed to a variety of risks.

Extremist groups are very active on all forms of social networks and are very experienced in taking advantage of vulnerable people and those, as teenagers generally are, very easily influenced. Their activity may well increase during lockdown.

The website link below to 'Educate Against Hate', is a very useful source of information for parents.

<https://educateagainsthate.com/signs-of-radicalisation/>

If you have any concerns about any safeguarding matters, please do get in touch.

Thank you

Mr Currie
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Online Radicalisation Parents Information & Support

[Click here](#) for information.



Online Safety At Home

The OSA Certificate of Online Safety

The current situation has resulted in an increase in online concerns for many young people across the country. As Woodkirk's Online Safety Evening for parents has had to be cancelled this term, Woodkirk Academy has signed up to the Online Safety Alliance which provides training for parents.

[Click here](#) for details of how to access this. You will require a Google account (such as Gmail/Googlemail) or a Microsoft Account (such as Hotmail). If you do not have one, you can create one as you access the course.

Once you are signed in you will be asked for an **enrolment key** – this is **woodkirk**.

The course is free and it would be great if you could sign up and complete the course over the coming weeks.

It is also important you are confident your son/daughter knows how to be safe and responsible when using the Internet. As part of our Online Safety education programme we would like students to complete a course delivered by the Online Safety Alliance. The OSA Certificate of Online Safety will provide valid and tangible evidence that your son/daughter understands how to stay safe online, what to do if things go wrong, and what the possible consequences of bad choices could be.

Please [click here](#) to view the Student Quick Start Guide

Online Safety Survey for parents

[Click here](#) for our Online Safety Survey for parents

Follow this link for more information on things you can do to keep your child safe online during this unsettling time. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/support-your-child-at-home>

[Click here](#) to read our Online Safety Briefing Sheet which provides advice about staying safe online.

During the pandemic it's likely that children will be spending more time on YouTube, for fun and learning. There are a few functions within YouTube that can help parents, view the following video here for more information <https://youtu.be/1Yvlfw7obwE>

There are warnings that, with schools being forced to shut, there is an increased risk of children being groomed and coerced online. More information can be found here:

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/news/children-may-be-at-greater-risk-of-grooming-during-coronavirus-pandemic-as-iwf-braces-for>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/iwf-warning-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

The group video messaging app Houseparty allows users to live-chat with up to 8 people where they can play games and chat with friends and family in a 'room' (group video chat). As with all live-streaming platforms, screenshots, unsolicited messages and self-generated sexualised imagery can put young people at risk. Follow this link for more information: <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2020/03/30/houseparty-how-safe-is-the-app-taking-the-uk-by-storm>



COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) IMPORTANT INFORMATION

General Support and Resources List

Click [here](#) to view telephone numbers and links to a range of support and services available.

Please [click here](#) to view a guide on what constitutes a reasonable excuse to leave the place where you live.

If you think you or a member of your household has coronavirus symptoms, click on the following link for government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Information is also available at <https://youtu.be/RD6mEJbeJYw>

The government has published guidance for educational settings, which can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

The latest information and advice published by the government can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Helpful information to answer questions from children

It is understandable that many children, and adults, are anxious about the Coronavirus and how it could impact them.

[Click here](#) for more support from Place2Be on how you can support your child, and yourself, with these concerns.

Leeds City Council have developed a webpage [Coronavirus help for people and communities](#) and a [leaflet](#) which offers practical support such as access to food, money and advice around work and how Leeds City Council are currently operating.

YOUR NHS IS STILL HERE FOR YOU

Find out how you can get medical help when you need it – [click here](#) for information

Your NHS is still here for you when you need us **NHS**

When to call 999 and attend Accident and Emergency (A&E)
It's important that if you, or your loved ones, become suddenly unwell you get help quickly.

When to call 999 and attend A&E:

- Choking
- Chest pain
- Blackout
- Severe bleeding
- A serious injury
- If you think you're having a stroke

Call 999 if you think you're having a stroke
The main symptoms of stroke can be remembered with the word **FAST** – you must call 999 if you have the following:

- **F**ace – face is drooping / fallen on one side, unable to smile, or the mouth or eye have dropped
- **A**rms – unable to raise both arms and keep them there
- **S**peech – speech is slurred or garbled
- **T**ime – dial 999 immediately if you see any of these signs or symptoms

If you have coronavirus or symptoms of this, please tell the operator and mention this to paramedics on arrival.

www.leedsccg.nhs.uk/HereForYou #NHSHereForYou



Looking after children and young people during the Coronavirus outbreak

Please [click here](#) to read 10 top tips to help you look after the mental health of those you are caring for during this difficult time.

Calm Harm App

Calm Harm- is a free app for over 12's to help manage the urge to self-harm. Leeds City Council and the NHS in Leeds are encouraging young people to download the Calm Harm app, which helps you resist or manage the urge to self-harm. It also has breathing techniques to help reduce symptoms of stress and anxiety. You can download the Calm Harm app from the App Store and Google Play.

Find out more about services in Leeds on the MindMate website:

<https://www.mindmate.org.uk/im-a-young-person/whats-in-leeds-for-me/>

Virtual talks w/c 4 May from Speakers for Schools

Speakers for Schools are an Inspiration Programme providing a network of today's most inspiring figures across business, arts, politics and more who donate their time to help inspire students to fuel their ambition.

Speakers for Schools are excited to present their weekly VTalks schedule. This schedule will be updated weekly and talks will be targeted to different age groups.

To view their complete schedule and information on how to access the talks, click [here](#).

Leodis Support Service

Leodis Support Service are continuing to support our young people and their families during the partial closures of all schools.

We are regularly updating our website to keep you informed of the services which are still operating locally and nationally such as Foodbanks, debt advice services, mental health support services etc. so that families can continue to access the help that they need.

Our Family Support Workers and Pastoral staff including Child Protection staff are continuing to provide 1:1 telephone and email support and where necessary home visits are being carried out.

Our Counsellors, Wellbeing Workers and Therapists continue to work remotely with young people to support their emotional wellbeing and we are continuing to update our Leodis Support Service Website with self-help resources for families to work through together.



Family Support Workers across the Trust are still working to maintain contact with families who need advice and guidance around Parenting. We have Online Parenting Support Courses available for those who wish to complete these online.

As a Cluster Service we are continuing to work with the Local Authority in partnership to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of our families is upheld and that all of our young people and families are safeguarded and know that although we are in isolation at this time, we are certainly not alone.

Should you have any additional needs for your families outside of curriculum support, please do not hesitate to contact us on 078 3571 2726 or refer to the Leodis Support Service website through your school website link.

School Show Ticket Refund

All refunds for the School Show tickets have now been completed on ParentPay. This can now be withdrawn from your account.

Coronavirus

Planes, trains, buses and cars

The government has made a number of changes to MOTs, travelling and driving tests during the lockdown. Here are some of the changes:

CORONAVIRUS
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

MOT TEST

● Your MOT certificate will be extended by six months if it was due to expire on or after 30 March 2020, and your vehicle is a:

- Car
- Motorcycle
- Light van
- Other light vehicle

This includes these types of vehicles that are due their first-ever MOT test.

● What you need to do:

Your vehicle's MOT expiry date will only be updated a few days before it was originally due to expire.

Three days before your MOT was originally due to expire, check the expiry date has been extended.

If the expiry date has not been extended three days before it was due to expire, **email covid19mot@dvsa.gov.uk**.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Only use public transport if you have to. When travelling by public transport:

- Avoid rush hours and busy times if you can
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the bin
- Follow advice on staying away from others
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser

Do not use public transport if:

- You have symptoms of coronavirus
- You or any of your household are self-isolating

AIR TRAVEL

- You should not travel by air unless your journey is essential.
- To check, change or cancel your travel plans contact your airline, travel company or accommodation providers
- Get in touch with your insurance provider



DRIVING TESTS

Driving tests are suspended for up to three months except for critical workers, and MOTs for lorries, buses and trailers are also suspended for up to three months.

The DVSA has suspended driving tests in England, Scotland and Wales for up to three months. The decision has been made to help prevent the spread of coronavirus as tests lead to extended contact between candidates and examiners in vehicles. Motorcycle tests have also been suspended.



SOURCE: GOV.UK/CORONAVIRUS GRAPHIC: KIM MOGG



MY Ed

The **MY Ed** app is an excellent method of communication between school and home. It will allow you to check information about the Academy, attendance of your child, his/her timetable, and positive referrals will be 'pushed' to your phone. In addition, you will be able to communicate directly with the Attendance Team for free. Please download this free app and check out the 'News' page of the Academy's website for an information video: NEWS - CLICK

