



Whitefield

Academy Trust

21st April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Please see also the letter from Elaine Colquhoun
posted on the website on 16th April**

We are sad to be starting the summer term in the context of 'lockdown' where it continues to be safer for pupils and staff for the Academy to remain closed. As you will see from the media, despite a great deal of speculation, there is no clear date for the 'lockdown' to be lifted or for the safety guidelines to ease. We recognise that this is a challenging time for many of you and a confusing experience for the children and young people who would expect to be in school. We continue to keep the situation under review and will reopen as soon as it is safe to do so and in line with government guidance for any period of transition.

Teachers are working to prepare resources for learning at home. A new set of resources for this term for Whitefield Schools can be found on our website at <https://www.whitefield.org.uk/ws-homework> and resources for Joseph Clarke School will be sent by email. We are grateful for feedback from parents and are working to develop these resources further in line with your comments and suggestions sent through the Family Support contacts. We will be adding new guidance and ideas from other sources to the website regularly. We hope that the resources will allow you to structure your child's day and to help them remember what they have been learning in school. However, it is just as important to look after your child's wellbeing and not to put them, or yourself, under pressure so please do not feel that you have to work on these resources for extended periods of time. Children and young people also learn in many other ways - by communicating with you, by sharing in the household activities, through play and through experiencing the world around them.

Some students are working towards GCSEs, A levels, Entry levels and accredited courses through ASDAN. The Trust is liaising with Highams Park School and examination/ accreditation boards to ensure our young people's achievements are recognised. We will keep parents informed.

Students on our Project Search employment scheme are being well supported by the tutors and job coaches to complete their scheduled learning and accreditation modules. They are writing CVs and job searching so they are ready to apply for jobs when they return to Whipps Cross hospital.

School staff from our Family Support Team and our Leadership Teams will be phoning you to keep in touch but please feel free to phone any morning if you want to talk about the activities which would be best for your child or to discuss anything else. The numbers to use are:

Gill Wadson	07871 735358
Lesley Middleton	07871 780023
Sarah Bent	07871 778470

To help us communicate with you in a timely way and send you useful information and resources, please give us your email address, if you haven't done so recently, <https://www.whitefield.org.uk/e-mail-details>

We are providing vouchers for those children and young people who are entitled to free school meals. Families will already have received one voucher through the post. You should receive an email from an organisation called Edenred which explains how to get and use an electronic voucher covering the Easter break and the first week of this term. You should then receive another email at the beginning of next week with the next set of vouchers. We recognise that there have been some delays from Edenred so emails may not arrive for a couple of days. Please contact school if you have not received an email by the end of the week or if you have any difficulty managing the system.

We are thinking of you and wish you well in these difficult and upsetting times. We look forward to opening the school again and working face to face with the children and young people.

Best wishes,

Elaine Colquhoun, CEO
Laura Pease, Principal Whitefield Schools
Chadia Filali-Moutei, Headteacher Joseph Clarke School