



Trust Office

C/O Yewlands Academy

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20 March 2020

Dear Parent/carer

RE: Coronavirus Update – Academy Closure

In line with the latest Government guidance, the Brigantia Learning Trust Hinde House 2-16 Academy will close for the vast majority of pupils/students from the end of Friday 20th March 2020 until further notice.

As advised by the Government, we will stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. Health and social care, Education and childcare, Key public services, Local and national government, Food and necessary goods, Public safety and national security, Transport, Utilities, communication and financial services). The full list of these workers is exemplified at the end of this letter.

If you fit into one of these groups, your child will be able to attend the academy from 9:00am to 3:00pm each day, with a modified timetable put in place. Students should be in uniform. All teaching will take place on the Academy site.

Breakfast is available from 8:30am for those who require it. Also a school lunch will be provided.

If you are a key worker and your child will be attending school during this period, could you please confirm this with the academy so that we can plan and provide the appropriate safe guarding arrangements in relation to attendance checks (i.e. you will want to be confident your child has arrived at the academy)

This information will allow us to take accurate registers and ensure a good staff to student ratio is maintained. We intend to run this partial closure from Monday, until we are advised to do otherwise.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into the academy from Monday onwards.

If your child is not attending the Academy due to the partial closure, the expectation is that they will maintain a working routine as best as they can. Work will be set by the academy. A home learning suite is available for all year groups and all subjects on the Hinde House website – www.hindehouse.net. Hard copies can also be provided by contacting the Academy.

Teachers will do all they can to provide high quality work during this difficult time. If your child usually receives free school meals, information will be on the school website about **how we will continue to provide this**.

During this period all school trips, after-school clubs, events and exams are cancelled.

We appreciate this closure will have an impact on you and your family and we will do our best to keep you informed as the situation develops. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mike Westerdale

Brigantia Learning Trust CEO

Vicky Simcock

Academy Principal

Chair: David Drayson

Directors: Kevin Clifford

Lisa Mitcheson

Mary Pepper

Jane Robinson

Nicola Shipman

Alison Warner

Chief Executive Officer: Mike Westerdale

Brigantia Learning Trust
A company limited by guarantee

Registered in England No. 8506178

Registered Office:

Hinde House 3-16 School

Shiregreen Lane

Sheffield S5 6AG

An exempt charity



COVID-19 Virus Government Advice and Guidance

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#).

And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and **cannot** be safely cared for at home. Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

We know that schools also want to support other children facing social difficulties and we will support them to do so. Parents/carers whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents/carers working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as elderly grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

Health and Social care

- **Doctors**
- **Nurses**
- **Midwives**
- **Paramedics**
- **Social Workers**
- **Care Workers**
- **Other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers**
- **Support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector**
- **Any worker part of the health and social care chain**

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Education and childcare

- Nursery and teaching staff
- Social Workers
- Specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 Response to deliver this approach

Key Public services

- Workers essential to running the justice system
- Religious staff
- Charity Workers delivering key frontline services
- Workers responsible for the management of the deceased
- Journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

- Administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of COVID-19 response
- Administrators to delivering essential public services such as payment of benefits

Food and other necessary goods

- Those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery
- Those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security

- Police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- Contractor and armed forces personnel
- Fire and rescue service employees
- National Crime Agency Staff
- Those maintaining border security
- Prison and probation staff

Transport

- Those who keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during COVID -19 response including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.
- Utilities, communication and financial services
 - Workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure
 - Workers in the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage),
 - Workers information technology and data infrastructure sector
 - Workers in primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response,
 - Key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
 - Workers in postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

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