

5th January 2021

Chief Executive – Marion Plant OBE, FCGI

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National Lockdown

Dear Pupils and Parents

As you will be aware, the Government has now moved to the next stage in their efforts to combat COVID-19. The Trust is following Government guidelines and has now closed our Academies to the majority of pupils. It is expected that this closure period will be in place until the 21st February with pupils expected to return to site on the 22nd February. We will continue to operate provision for the most vulnerable and children of critical keyworkers at our schools and details of this provision will be communicated to parents separately by our schools. If you are a keyworker and have not previously informed us of this, please contact your child's school so that this information can be provided to you. Pupils sitting BTEC exams in the next two weeks should continue to attend for their exam only as these are taking place as planned.

We will continue to follow advice and monitor this situation closely while ensuring that we remain the cornerstone of the community during these uncertain times. Please be assured that our academies have put robust plans in place to ensure that the vast majority of curriculum and business functions can continue during this enforced closure. Our pupils remain our top priority, and therefore we would encourage you to support them in continuing to access learning and keeping up to date with learning as best as possible following the guidance and advice issued previously and available on the school websites. Each Academy will display on their websites details of the curriculum and learning that pupils need to complete during this period. There will also be contact details for support including remote learning support, free school meals, safeguarding and pastoral care. Free school meal vouchers will be provided for those pupils who are eligible, and these will be sent to you as soon as possible.

The announcement last night also stated that the summer exams for year 11 will not happen as planned, however there is not yet any specific details about this. It is therefore vital that year 11 pupils continue to complete work set and prepare for exams that may take place in some subjects or provide evidence that teachers will need, should they be asked to complete centre assessed grades. We know that year 11 pupils will be anxious to know what is happening and we will update you as soon as we have this information. Our Careers and Employability Manager - Debbie Partridge has met with the majority of pupils in year 11 and she is working to secure destinations for all pupils. Pupils who have not yet had an appointment will have a virtual appointment during the period of closure. The contact details for our Debbie are by email – debbie.partridge@midlandat.co.uk or by phone on 07813450650 and we would encourage any pupil or parent who needs support to make contact and an appointment will be arranged as soon as possible. We will also continue to liaise with post-16 providers to ensure that no pupil is disadvantaged by the decisions made regarding the summer exams.

We recognise and understand that you may have concerns and ask for your support as we work together to ensure the good health of all of our staff, pupils and our local communities. We continue to monitor the rapidly changing situation and will update you as things change. We will keep staff, parents and pupils informed via social media and our website of any changes to the situation. Please continue to monitor our website for updated communications.

Thank you for your understanding and support during this situation and my very best wishes to you and your family at this very difficult time.

Best wishes



Marion Plant OBE
Chief Executive Officer

