



Hathaway Academy

Principal: Ms Fatima Rodrigues
Hathaway Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 5LL
T 01375 371361 F 01375 382743
E admin@hathawayacademy.attrust.org.uk W www.hathawayacademy.attrust.org.uk

5th January 2021

Ref: FR/DJW

Dear Parent/Carers

I wrote to you last week following the Government's announcement just before the New Year about when students would return to our Academy this term.

I am sorry to be writing to you again so soon on this subject. However, as you may have seen, the Prime Minister has now announced a new national lockdown because of rising infection rates of Covid-19 and to try to prevent the further spread of the virus.

As part of this, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in England are to be closed from today for in-person attendance, except for children of key workers or vulnerable children.

The Prime Minister also announced that "not all exams" would go ahead as normal this year and that there would be alternative arrangements. He said the Government would set out further details on this at a later date, and when that information is announced, we will update those of you whose children are due to take exams this year.

From today:

If you or your partner is a key worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the academy will remain open, as now, and we look forward to seeing them as normal for teaching and learning.

For those attending in person, we will be maintaining the approach to safe working and infection control that we have adopted throughout the pandemic. As this will include additional ventilation, we would advise those attending to ensure they wear additional layers of clothing during this period of cold weather.

For all other students, we will be offering remote provision – this is likely to be until at least the end of the February half-term. High-quality remote learning will be provided to make sure our students continue to receive a consistent education. We know that this places pressure on you at a difficult time but your support in helping your child engage as much as possible is so important and we are very grateful for it.

All students will follow their normal timetable from Monday 11th January with live lessons starting at the normal timetabled lesson start time. The live online lessons will last for the duration of the normal lesson and will include a teacher presentation, tasks set for students to complete independently, a chance for question/answer and also a plenary to sum up the learning. Teachers will remain online so that students can ask questions if they need to. All students need to complete work set and upload it to TEAMS for marking and

feedback. Attendance registers will be taken and recorded so both you and the academy can monitor your child's attendance. Outside of the live online lessons students can email their subject teachers for help and advice. If you or your child needs any help with passwords and access then please email help@hathawayacademy.attrust.org.uk. Our Blended Learning Policy can be found on our website along with all COVID information.

Year 11 will have live lessons according to their timetable **starting today** as planned and previously communicated. As we do not have clarification about the exam process or the government alternative, students must continue to engage in their education ensuring that they are prepared for any system put in place and so that teachers have the evidence to be able to base any predicted grade on. It is also important that our young people continue to learn and develop their knowledge and understanding to support their next steps and future aspirations.

Pastoral support will be provided by your child's tutor and Progress Leader and if they have any concerns they should email them in the first instance. The academy will contact you by phone routinely to ensure that your child is accessing the learning, that there are no concerns and to see if there is any further support we can offer. Our Faculty, SEND and Safeguarding teams all remain available to support students and parents/carers with any academic or pastoral issues.

Free school meals will be available for collection/delivery today and on Thursday this week and Monday and Wednesday of next week. We are awaiting information from the government about FSM beyond this but please be assured that we will ensure provision for all FSM students whilst we are working remotely. If your child does not currently receive FSM but you believe you are now eligible please complete the form on our website and contact Attendance on Attendance@hathawayacademy.attrust.org.uk

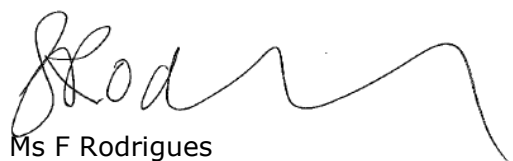
IT access is being organised and by the end of next week we aim to have provided a device to any household without one including a dongle for internet access where this is not readily available. We are not yet able to provide a device for all siblings who attend The Hathaway Academy and therefore some students may need to share in some instances. As we receive more devices we will aim to provide them to households with more than one Hathaway Academy student and where there is only one device.

We will continue to stay in touch with you of course. However, do let us know if you require any support relating to these new arrangements.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

Please continue to take care and to stay safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Rodrigues', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ms F Rodrigues
Principal