

18 March 2020



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Partial School closure due to Coronavirus

The outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) has now been classified as a pandemic and the number of confirmed cases in the UK has risen in recent weeks. We take the health and safety of our school community very seriously, so we have made the decision to **partially close** the academy from Thursday 19 March until Friday 27 March, in the first instance, to minimise the further spread of coronavirus.

We have looked at our current staffing, and also given consideration to what we know about staffing over the next few days and reluctantly, following consultation with senior leaders and the Chair of Governors, I have to inform you that we will have insufficient staff to be able to open the school safely for all students. **From tomorrow, Thursday 19 March we will be open for students in Years 7, 8, 11, 12 and 13 and, for students in Years 9 and 10 where we have been able to identify that staying at home will require a carer who is a key worker in the health or education system to stay at home too.** Consequently, today we began the process of identifying which students, in **Years 9 and 10**, will need to have access to school because their primary carer is a key worker in the health or education systems. The quickest way to do this was to ask the students if their primary carer is any of the following and would be required to miss work to look after the student:

- Working in healthcare or social care (e.g. nurses, doctors, paramedics, care workers, midwives, health visitors, social workers, cleaners, caretakers, nursery assistants)
- Staff working in a school – where the school remains open (e.g. teachers, TAs, cleaners, caretakers, lunchtime supervisors)

This approach has provided us with a rough estimate, although it is not an ideal process to gather accurate information. Therefore, **if your child is currently in Year 9 or Year 10** and you work in any of these areas and would be required to miss work if your child could not come to school, please let us know as soon as possible by email attendance@holderness.academy to allow us to establish registers of which students we can expect in the morning. Please be aware that students attending under these arrangements will not have access to their full normal timetable. However, we will look after them, ensure they have access to resources, have meals and break times. This is a genuine effort on our part to help relieve some of the burden on the NHS and thus help to protect the most vulnerable people in our society.

We will continue to keep you informed of any developments via our website, email and text message, including any changes to our full re-opening date. Please make sure you have provided your current contact details to us to ensure you receive our correspondence. If you need to provide new contact details or update those which we currently hold, please complete the attached form and email this to data@holderness.academy as soon as possible.

Explorer • Scholar • Leader • Collaborator



To reduce the partial closure's effect on pupils' education, we have prepared alternative work provisions for pupils to complete at home. Please see the attached **Remote/Distance Learning Arrangements** document, which is also available on our website.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the safety of our pupils and staff. If you need to contact the academy for any reason during this period of partial closure, you can do so by emailing us at:

- office@holderness.academy (for general enquires)
- attendance@holderness.academy (for attendance queries and advice)
- data@holderness.academy (to confirm the contact details we hold for you)
- _itsupport@holderness.academy (if your child experiences any technical issues with remote learning access)

Alternatively, you can telephone us on 01482 899315. We will continue to keep you informed during the period of partial closure and update you with any new information about our full re-opening date.

Thank you once again for you continued support at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Wilson
Headteacher