



East Dale Road
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Dear Parent/Carer

We will try to write to you weekly to keep you posted on what we are doing and how we are trying to support students and the wider community in these challenging times. We are all adapting to a new reality and recognise that lots of people are worried about their health and the health of loved ones, many are trying to take care of children at home while balancing other commitments while some are facing real anxiety around jobs, businesses or income

Schools should be at the heart of their communities and we have never experienced a stronger sense of community and common humanity than we are experiencing now. The last two weeks have been like nothing else we have ever faced as school leaders; some of our staff are working at home and some are working in schools but all those well enough to work are trying to provide resources for students to study at home, to develop guidance for students and parents, to look after the children of key workers or children who need us the most or to contribute to a wider effort to combat this virus.

Over the last week we have supported almost 300 key worker shifts by keeping our six schools open for those who need us. We have been enormously grateful to parents and carers who have done everything they can to keep their children at home while we remain ready to welcome anyone who absolutely needs to use school so they can continue work. This week we have donated thousands of toilet rolls to vulnerable people, hundreds of chocolate bars, bags of popcorn and drinks to ambulance staff and have donated several thousand items of personal protective equipment to the NHS. We are immensely proud of our staff who have made all this and much more happen.

In return, we have been humbled by some extraordinary kindness from parents, students and the community. We have been inundated with thoughtful messages; staff in one of our schools were sent flowers by a local supermarket; staff in another school received home baking and food from a parent who is a key worker and we know of so many students, parents and members of staff who are volunteering in their local communities. In the darkest of moments we have seen some of the brightest lights.

Alongside this letter, we are sending a booklet we have created which we hope will be helpful in helping you support your child's learning at home. We are continuing to update the online platform and after Easter, we hope to provide fortnightly blocks of work, covering new content, with a key piece of work for students to complete and return to teachers for feedback. We are also working on developing a range of new teaching resources and are exploring the use of technology, potentially involving use of Google or Microsoft school platforms, podcasts, videos, links to documentaries and a variety of other things. We will keep you posted about these developments but rest assured we are working hard to develop the very best ways of helping all of our students learn from home and are working on systems to ensure we can establish a cycle to enable students to submit specific key pieces of work.



The Education Alliance is a charitable limited company registered in England and Wales No. 7542211 whose registered office is at the above address.



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We will write again next week but in the meantime, please be assured that we will do everything we can to support students through this period in their lives. For the next week or so, the best thing they can do is try to establish routines at home that involves some school work but has some variety and is balanced with hobbies, exercise, reading, music, connecting with other people and maybe even helping out a bit at home! I think we all agree that health, family, friends and neighbours come above all else right now.

We wish you and your families the very best at this time.

Kind regards

Jonny Uttley
CEO

Richard Williman
Headteacher



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