

18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

PARTIAL CLOSURE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

With reference to my letter dated 13th March, the number of staff who are currently self-isolating has reached the requisite number where I have no other option but to enforce a temporary, partial closure for both Harris Academy Aspire and Harris Professional Skills Sixth Form. The staff absence follows recent government advice that if one person in a household has a high fever or a new continuous cough, then everyone else living there must stay at home for 14 days. Likewise, the government has advised that pregnant women must self-isolate, which affects teachers in many schools including ours. The partial closure is necessary to ensure that I can be confident in safeguarding our students while they are on site and still deliver effective learning.

This will be in effect on the **Thursday 19th March** until further notice. Enclosed in this letter is the schedule. As time progresses this may have to be adapted or indeed revoked but I will inform you as soon as this happens.

Harris Aspire

- KS3 and Year 10 will be in **everyday** arriving in the morning and leaving between 12.10 pm – 12.30 pm depending on whether they stay for lunch.
- Year 11 students will be in **everyday** arriving at 1.00 pm if they wish to have lunch. Otherwise, lessons will commence at 1.20 pm and finish at 4.00 pm.

Harris Professional Skills Sixth Form

- Year 12 Vocational students taking Construction, Business, Media, Health and Social Care or Science will be in on **Monday morning, Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning** and will be given additional work that they must complete at home.
- Year 12 students taking GCSEs and level 2 subjects will be in on **Monday afternoon, Wednesday afternoon and Friday afternoon** and will be given additional work that they must complete at home.
- Year 13 Vocational students taking Construction, Business, Media and Health and Social Care will be in on **Tuesday morning, Thursday afternoon and Friday morning** and will be given additional work that they must complete at home.

Please refer to the schedule for specific timings.

All students arriving will have the opportunity to stay for lunch. We are currently arranging for food vouchers from a major supermarket chain and students on Free School Meals will be able to collect a voucher for days they are not expected in the Academy.

Principal: Andrew Barr

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Harris Aspire

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Harris Professional Skills Sixth Form

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Please be aware of government guidance on 'social distancing'. Although some students are not required to be in the Academy, they must remain at home or in the care of responsible adults completing set work. Students are not permitted to be out in public places unsupervised.

Please also note that there are some groups of people who are at increased risk from coronavirus. These can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

Currently the list includes:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (ie anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
- chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
- chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
- chronic kidney disease
- chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
- chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
- diabetes
- problems with your spleen – for example, sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed
- a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy
- being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
- those who are pregnant

It is vitally important that whilst your child is at home, they avoid mixing with anyone in these categories.

If you work in the NHS, armed services or the emergency services and you need us to continue to educate your child in order to go to work, please let us know by contacting the Academy and we will do so for as long as possible.

If your child usually receives counselling, they will receive a phone call at their scheduled time.

If at any point you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead on C.Dunne@harrisps6f.org.uk This is relevant to both Aspire and HPS6F academies.

Closing a school, even partially and temporarily as in this situation, is always a very difficult decision for teachers and leaders. We are acutely conscious of the impact on students and families. However, our staff also have a duty to follow advice from the government and Public Health England in order to keep everybody safe and healthy. Please refer to our websites for a review of the situation each day.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Barr
Principal

Harris Academy Aspire and Harris Professional Skills Sixth Form Academy Day Partial Closure

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Session 1 student arrival	9.30am - 9.40pm	All students go to hall to be informed of roomings and staffing			
Session 1	2 hours 30 minutes	9.40am - 12.10pm	Year 10 and KS3	Year 10 and KS3	Year 10 and KS3
			Year 12 Vocational Level 3	Year 12 Vocational Level 3	Year 13 Vocational Level 3
			Year 13 Construction	Year 12 Construction	Year 13 Construction
Lunch Session 1 students	12.10pm - 12.30pm	In Dining Room Only Students may leave via back gate			
Session 1 student dismissal	12.30pm - 12.35pm	Exit via Back gate students to go straight home			
Staff Lunch/Session 2 PPA	12.35pm - 1.00pm				
Lunch Session 2 students arrival	1.00pm - 1.20pm	Arrival via reception in Dining Room Only			
Rally Point	1.20pm - 1.30pm	All students go to hall to be informed of roomings and staffing			
Session 2	2 hours 30 minutes	1.30pm - 4.00pm	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11
			Year 12 GCSE and Level 2	Year 12 GCSE and Level 2	Year 12 GCSE and Level 2
			Year 12 Vocational Level 3	Year 13 Vocational Level 3	Year 13 Construction
Session 2 student dismissal	4.00pm - 4.05pm	Exit via reception students to go straight home			