



# Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

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Dear parents/carers,

As you may have heard, tonight the government has announced that all schools must close to the majority of pupils due to the Coronavirus. As a consequence, **Dashwood Banbury Academy will close with effect from today the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021** until further notice, possibly until after February half-term. Whilst we were very surprised to hear that the closure is coming at such short notice, we have been working behind the scenes in possible preparation for this. We will keep our website updated with any information about the date of reopening. Dashwood will, however, **remain open** to provide care for the children of **key workers and for vulnerable children**, which includes those children who have a social worker or an Education Health Care Plan. You can find out if you are eligible for a place at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

As the news has come with no time to fully prepare, we are asking that **only pupils of parents who are key workers and have completed the survey** to arrive in school tomorrow. For those who believe they fall under the vulnerable category or who are unsure if they are key workers, please stay at home tomorrow and we will contact you directly by the end of the day to arrange a place if appropriate. If you are a key worker and have completed the survey texted out (<https://forms.gle/1joNre2doiUj7sqY6>), please arrive at your usual drop off time to your normal classroom in full school uniform tomorrow. We will be able to give you more information about the future place tomorrow in a letter. We **will not be running any breakfast or after school clubs tomorrow** whilst we work out staffing and pupil numbers but the survey will help us to do this and see if we are able to run it at all. We are sorry that this information is coming at such short notice and apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

For all other **pupils whose parents are not classified as key workers school or are not vulnerable children**, the **academy is closed** for the foreseeable future. During the period of closure, teachers will be setting appropriate work for all pupils. This will be accessed via Tapestry/Seesaw or in paper form for those who do not have internet access and have told us so previously. **Remote learning** will be in place from **Wednesday** as staff will be planning and organising this tomorrow. In terms of learning for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, pupils in Reception to Year 6 should access their year group's scheduled lessons at: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/schedule-by-year> and post work to Seesaw/Tapestry. For pupils in Nursery, they could share a reading book at home and have a go at drawing the picture of the main character. They can also play games at: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/1> If you do not have internet access, we suggest tomorrow practicing your child's relevant timetables for their year group or counting activities, reading two books and completing a mindfulness or physical exercise activity such as coloring or yoga. As I say, from Wednesday the learning will be much more detailed and specific.

We will **write to you fully tomorrow** with all the details around remote learning and how we will be supporting those working from home as well as with details for those who are eligible to attend school still. Unlike the previous lockdowns, this time we want to ensure **every child completes their learning every day so as not to fall behind**. Our expectations of pupils are that they should complete all of the work set by their teachers daily if they are well enough to do so and should aim to work from home during normal school hours. Even during a period of school closure, our primary concern is the safety of our pupils. **The school office will be open tomorrow to take any calls or email enquiries you may have.**

On a separate but relevant note, in England, all exams in May and June have been cancelled as from tonight, including GCSEs and A-levels as well as England's primary school national curriculum tests,



known as **SATs**. As soon as we are informed by the government we will write to parents to explain how pupil grades will be awarded this year.

Whilst my immediate concern is the health and safety of pupils and their families, clearly the longer-term impact is a concern too. Whilst it is too early to give a definitive answer on this, we are confident that government is currently exploring all possible scenarios and options and we will continue to be involved in these discussions. We will do our very best to offer the best education we can in a safe way.

We would urge you to follow the **latest government advice** regarding the virus, which can be found on the government's website [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) to help keep you and your family safe.

As we receive further information on the closure for parents it will be posted on the school website and in letters sent out to you.

We do hope that this is the beginning of the end as the vaccine rolls out. We wish you well during this very difficult time and look forward to seeing you all again as soon as we are able to reopen our school. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation with us during this difficult time.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AERogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs Amy Rogers

Principal