

**COVID - 19 Unity Academy Bulletin**  
**30th March 2020**

These are unprecedented times where the academy is relying on daily guidance from the Government, this guidance changes regularly and often this published information lags behind information in the press. This bulletin intends to keep all stakeholders as up to date as possible given the information we have and the fast moving situation.

**School Closure Update**

Unity Academy is closed until further notice to all students other than those who are considered vulnerable or families where both parents are key workers. These parents should have contacted us. Children should only come to school if there are **no other options**. We will maintain communication with those considered vulnerable regarding attendance.

**Easter**

Under normal circumstances the school would close on Friday 3rd April for two weeks for the Easter break. In the current situation the school will remain open for children of key workers during this period (excluding Good Friday and Easter Monday - see note below regarding opening outside normal working hours), registration arrangements remain unchanged from this week.

**Free School Meals**

Thank you to those who collected food parcels for children entitled to free school meals in the last week, information regarding collection this week will be placed on the website.

**Staff update - this week**

Please check the rota issued for this week carefully, as absence continues to change regularly, we are making emergency changes where it is absolutely necessary.

**Staff update - Easter working**

The Government has mandated that schools will need to operate over the Easter period for key workers' children. A rota will be issued on Tuesday for the next two weeks, this will take into account known absence patterns.

**Isolation periods**

For clarity, the government information about isolation period is shown below, copied from <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

### **If you have symptoms**

If you have symptoms of coronavirus, you'll need to self-isolate for 7 days.

After 7 days:

- if you do not have a high temperature, you do not need to self-isolate
- if you still have a high temperature, keep self-isolating until your temperature returns to normal

You do not need to self-isolate if you just have a cough after 7 days. A cough can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.

### **If you live with someone who has symptoms**

If you live with someone who has symptoms, you'll need to self-isolate for 14 days from the day their symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear.

If more than 1 person at home has symptoms, self-isolate for 14 days from the day the first person started having symptoms.

If you get symptoms, self-isolate for 7 days from when your symptoms start, even if it means you're self-isolating for longer than 14 days.

If you do not get symptoms, you can stop self-isolating after 14 days.

This means that if children (who are vulnerable or have a key worker parent) or staff are the first in the household to show symptoms or they live alone, they can return to school/work after 7 days as long as they have no temperature. The 14 day period applies where someone else in the house has symptoms but you do not, if this applies you should isolate for 7 days from the day your symptoms start.

Staff should contact Karen Linney to inform them of their absence and the date that symptoms started for themselves or the date they started for a member of the household if they don't have symptoms themselves. Staff should note that we will need to speak to all colleagues once the period of time is coming to an end to discuss the return to work.

## **Critical Workers - Operations outside of normal school hours**

If you are a critical worker (NHS or emergency services) and as a result of COVID-19 require childcare beyond the school day, please refer to the Blackpool Council website.

## **School Closure Work**

Work for students during school closure will be placed on the website - [www.unity.blackpool.org.uk](http://www.unity.blackpool.org.uk) - work will be regularly refreshed during this period.

## **Enquiries**

Should you have any questions during this time please email [generalenquiries@unity.fcat.org.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@unity.fcat.org.uk) - if you have specific emails regarding subjects or software, please use the email addresses on the website, under school closure.

## **Staying safe online**

Parents and carers may choose to supplement the online work offer with support from online companies and in some cases individual tutors. We felt it was important to emphasise the importance of securing online support from a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children. Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - **advice for parents and carers**

## **Residential visits abroad**

We are receiving a number of queries regarding planned visits abroad in October 2020 and February 2021. We are in regular liaison with the tour operators regarding this and will communicate information as and when we have it although information at this stage indicates that both visits should go ahead. In the interim period, we are able to implement a

3 month payment holiday, if requested. However, should the trips be able to go parents will still need to pay the full amount but can do so in installments after the visit has taken place.