



Dear Parents/Guardians,

COVID19 Daily Update -20.03.2020

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support during this difficult time. Your kind messages have meant a great deal to the staff here at Isca Academy.

In the coming weeks, we will take on a different role in support of the national efforts to manage Coronavirus. From Monday, 23 March, we will continue to maintain provision for our vulnerable students and the children of 'critical workers'. **Please remember that the School is only open for those children who absolutely need to attend and if your child has, or develops, a continuous cough or a temperature, you must ensure that they do not attend school.** This is also the case for the children of 'critical workers'. We thank you for the support you have already shown in this regard, and ask you to continue with your vigilance. We understand that this will be a challenging time for all our families and the school will do everything it can to assist over the coming weeks.

Wellbeing

We appreciate that some of our students will face some difficulties during this period of closure, so we have created a wellbeing email for the students to use: wellbeing@iscaexeter.co.uk. This will be regularly checked by our Inclusion Team and they can respond to your child's concerns and also signpost support for them. We also have information about student wellbeing on our website that may be of use.

Home Learning

Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child continues to access their learning whilst at home using the resources provided. As you know, we had initially set up our online learning for a short-term closure, meaning that teachers would upload work for students to complete and then hand in upon their return, and during this time, be available via email for any questions. With a prolonged period of school closure now likely, we will be moving to Phase Two of our online learning plan; details of this will be sent to you immediately after the Easter break.

Free School Meals

During the closure of our school, we have made provision to ensure that those in our school community who are the most vulnerable and are eligible to receive free school meals continue to do so. Students who are entitled to free school meals will be able to attend school each day to have their lunch between 12:00 and 13:00. If, as a family, you have to self-isolate, please contact the school on FSM@iscaexeter.co.uk and we can arrange for a food voucher to be delivered to you instead.

If you are unsure whether or not your child is eligible to receive free school meals, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Medication

If the school holds medication for your child and you will need this during the period of closure, please contact us to discuss the collection of the medication at adminoffice@iscaexeter.co.uk

Year 11

Further to the recent announcement that GCSE examinations would not take place this year, the Department for Education has today issued a statement regarding the Summer results, as follows:

The Government's priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university, college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.

This means ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.

The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. We will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

We will be working closely with local colleges and other providers to secure a progression route for each and every child. Whilst we do not yet know the detail of how things will evolve, senior staff at Exeter College and other local Further Education institutions are committed to doing whatever is necessary to support students.

In the meantime, our message to students continues to be that their skills and knowledge will not be wasted and they should continue to learn and maximise the support available to them so that they are prepared for anything. Please remember to return the letter regarding non-assessed coursework, which is very important.

I would also like to reassure all of our Year 11 students that when the school is able to re-open, we will ensure that they enjoy their well-deserved Year 11 Prom and Leavers Assembly!

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns now or during the period of closure, please contact our Safeguarding Lead, Kate Campbell-Bellis on: kcampbell.bellis@iscaexeter.co.uk

Any urgent safeguarding or child protection matters should be directed to the Devon Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) directly on 0345 1551071.

Should you have an immediate concern for the safety or welfare of a child, please call 999 or report any non-emergency concerns to the police via 101.

Communication

As of Monday, 23rd March, during the period of school closure, it is our intention to communicate with you through a weekly letter, unless, of course, we have any new or urgent information to share with you. Our staff will remain contactable via email during working hours throughout, although please bear in mind that this may be reduced during the period of the Easter Holidays.

A reminder of key contact points:

Question	Email address
COVID19 or reporting self-isolation	cornovirus@iscaexeter.co.uk
Free School Meals	fsm@iscaexeter.co.uk
Attendance	attendance@iscaexeter.co.uk

IT Support	helpdesk@iscaexeter.co.uk
Safeguarding Concerns	Kcampbell.bellis@iscaexeter.co.uk
Student wellbeing	wellbeing@iscaexeter.co.uk
General school enquiries	adminoffice@iscaexeter.co.uk

With thanks for your continued support and best wishes to all,

Miss Aimee Mitchell
Headteacher