Northern Ambition Academies Trust
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Date: 16/04/2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have managed to enjoy a good Easter break in these very trying times. The sun has shined for us which, I'm sure, was welcomed by all.

As we approach the end of our 4th week of 'lockdown' and school closure for the majority of children and young people, I would like to take this opportunity to update you and to share our plans for the forthcoming weeks.

National Voucher Scheme (Free School Meals)
As explained in my last letter, this scheme begins in all of our schools from Monday 20th April. The Trust has, however, ensured that Tesco vouchers have been distributed to those eligible since schools closed.

Changes to school Provision during closure
Until now, we have kept all of our schools open for key worker and vulnerable children. However due to low numbers accessing the provision at Airedale Academy, this school will be closed to students from Monday 20th April and until further notice. All students who have been attending, or need to attend Airedale Academy, will be contacted personally and will be asked to attend provision at Airedale Junior School. Academy staff will be there to meet them and provide activities. We will of course keep this under review and alert you to any changes in good time. All other schools within the Trust remain as they are.

Staff across our family of schools will continue to provide the best education and childcare they can for our pupils. All are working incredibly hard both at home, and in school, to ensure pupils can access quality resources, that they receive worthwhile feedback and to simply check on their wellbeing. I can't thank them enough for all they are doing. Check out the heart-warming video messages made by staff on the schools Facebook pages.

I would also like to thank our wonderful pupils for embracing school closure as best they can, it really doesn't go unnoticed. We thoroughly enjoy seeing and hearing about their creative achievements at home. We certainly have some budding bakers and artists amongst them.

It would be remiss of me to not thank you once again, our parents and carers, who we know continue to do all you can to keep your child or children at home to keep safe. We appreciate this but equally we understand how difficult this can be. Thank you.

It is important you know that as a Trust, we are making every effort to support our Key Workers at this time. We have donated PPE equipment to our local GP Surgeries, food parcels to the Castleford Mission and are in discussion about how we can raise provisions to support key workers at Pinderfields hospital in Wakefield. I will keep you updated!

Safeguarding
Now, more than ever, social media is being used to help families and friends to stay in touch. It is important that children remain safe online. There has been a significant increase in the use of apps which allow multiple people to interact at the same time e.g. Houseparty. Such apps are not automatically set to 'private'. This makes it really easy for your child to be contacted by somebody they do not know. The NSPCC categorise Houseparty as high risk for bullying and inappropriate contact. Please make sure that your son/daughter uses the highest possible security settings on all of their apps so that they are only talking to people they know and trust.

There are a range of sources of information for parents/carers on how to keep your child safe on line. Net- aware by the NSPCC will allow you to search for an app, find out how it works and how to use security settings. Please see the links below for more information:

- www.Internetmatters.org - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- www.net-aware.org.uk - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- www.parentinfo.org - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- www.saferinternet.org.uk - advice for parents and carers.

As always if you have any concerns about a child, please contact the school. If you have concerns about a child and the office is closed, please contact Social Care Direct on 0345 8503503.

Reopening of Schools
You will have seen through the regular media updates that there is no mention of timescales for schools to reopen, or indeed for Lockdown Restrictions to begin to be lifted. As soon as we receive any information or guidance, I will of course ensure that this is shared.

In the meantime, please continue to stay safe, stay at home and look forward to the time we can all meet again.

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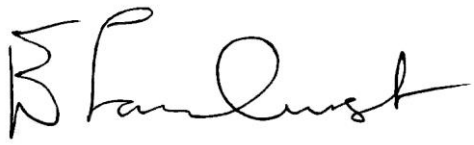
Yours faithfully



Elizabeth Fairhurst
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