



The Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust

Learning Communities, Inspired by Faith

Chair of the Trust: Mr Charles Gillott
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Date: 03.04.2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: School Closure Update

I hope that this finds you and your family healthy and well. I write to provide a quick update on the current position with our schools and the provision for children of Critical Workers and vulnerable pupils.

Emergency Contact Details

Your child's Headteacher will have provided you with emergency contact details, should you wish to contact a Senior Leader at your child's school. These details are available on the school's latest newsletter and school website.

Easter Holiday Opening

From Monday 6th April, we will be rationalising the offer of school places over the Easter period (and possibly thereafter). To support the situation nationally, we have decided to consolidate schools so that it substantially reduces the number of teachers and support staff travelling to work and subsequently mixing with each other. As the offer of alternative childcare provision could potentially be unsettling for pupils and their parents, we will ensure that a member of staff from their own school is available at the alternative provision. We will continue to ensure that our staffing levels and rotas are as such that pupils' safety is not compromised, and staff are able to stay safe with their families where possible. Please see below which school bases will remain open for children whose parents are Critical Workers and those pupils who may be vulnerable. If you have any queries about this arrangement, please contact your child's school:

Schools Open Week 1	Schools Open Week 2
Monday 6th April - Friday 10th April (Good Friday)	Monday 13th April (Easter Monday) – Friday 17th April
St Thomas à Becket's	St Thomas à Becket's
St Wilfrid's (Closed) – no buses	St Wilfrid's (Closed) – no buses
St Joseph's Pontefract	Holy Family & St Michael's Pontefract
St Benedict's Garforth	St Joseph's Castleford
St John the Baptist Normanton	St Austin's Wakefield
English Martyrs Wakefield	St Ignatius Ossett
St Joseph's Moorthorpe	Sacred Heart Hemsworth



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Free School Meals

Earlier this week the government announced a scheme for vouchers to be issued to all families who are eligible for Free School Meals. As well as the 'Grab Bag' offer to eligible pupils, we will also be using the voucher scheme to support our families.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/voucher-scheme-launches-for-schools-providing-free-school-meals>

As a result of loss of earning caused by redundancy or economic uncertainty, family circumstances may change and so I have included the standard eligibility information in order to apply for Free School Meals at the end of this letter and your child's school will be able to provide further information. We are very sensitive to the additional pressures many of our families are currently facing and we will do everything we can to help your family manage such circumstances; please just let us know.

Online Learning

Staff are routinely setting new work for pupils on a weekly and daily basis. This will be suspended for the duration of the Easter holidays, although staff may set a small amount of homework to be completed over the Easter period.

Please do reinforce to your children, the vital importance of staying at home, of avoiding meeting up with friends, of maintaining at least two metres of distance between themselves and others when out, and of regular hand washing.

As a Trust, we continue to work closely with the Local Authority and the Diocese in order to offer a consistent and safe response to the current crisis, and as such, we have communicated the information in this letter to Local Authority and Diocesan partners.

We continue to aim to provide the very best care and education for our pupils and families and welcome any feedback that will help us to refine and develop our approach. My very best wishes to you and your family for their health and wellbeing at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Fitton
CEO



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Free School Meals Eligibility Criteria

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- *Income Support*
- *Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *The guaranteed element of Pension Credit*
- *Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit*
- *Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)*

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- *younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)*
- *in full-time education*

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022