



The Astley Cooper School

Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust

St Agnells Lane, Hemel Hempstead HP2 7HL

Tel: 01442 394 141

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Email: admin@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk

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5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

School closure

I am sure you are aware that yesterday evening the Prime Minister announced another national lockdown for the next six weeks from one minute past midnight on Wednesday. This means that schools are closed until the February half-term for all but vulnerable students and the children of key workers. We were pleased to welcome a number of those students back to school today.

All year groups will now be taught remotely following their usual timetables as outlined in detail by Mrs Rourke and Mr Baker in their letter yesterday. Our staff are available to answer any queries you or your child may have. Please contact them by email during normal school hours.

Thank you to the large number of you who completed the ACS Home Learning Survey. If you have not done so but your child needs a laptop in order to access their work on Google Classroom, please contact Miss Welsh on a.welsh@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk

The Prime Minister also announced that the examinations in the summer would not go ahead as planned. The Government intend *'to put in place alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly.'* When we have more details about what that means in practice, we will let you know. However, it is very important that Year 11 and Year 13 students do not get despondent but continue to attend lessons, talk to their teachers, and work hard.

The message that their teachers are sending Year 11 and Year 13 students today is below:

- Your hard work will be recognised. None of the effort you have shown so far, and will continue to show in the coming months, will be wasted
- Your eventual results will be indistinguishable from real exams. The value of your GCSE and A Level qualification is not being altered
- None of your ambitions for the future will be affected by this decision
- Grades will be awarded based on objective evidence. Any grades that your teachers set will be moderated carefully, to ensure they are consistent within and between schools

As far as we currently understand the situation, vocational assessments scheduled to take place this month will go ahead as planned: we will let you know of any changes immediately.





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Headteacher: Edward Gaynor

We still intend to set up a COVID-19 testing programme. We will give you more details on that when we have a clearer idea of what is expected following this latest announcement. In the meantime, you will shortly receive a consent form to allow us to test your child to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases.

These are extremely difficult times for us all. I appreciate your patience and support throughout this lengthy health crisis and a national situation that is constantly changing.

On behalf of the Governors and all my colleagues, I wish you and your family well in the weeks to come.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Gaynor
Headteacher

