



Academy Closure Update @ Queensbury Academy



V2

Welcome to the next edition of our bulletin to keep you updated about key events and information throughout the period the academy is closed. Week Commencing 20th April 2020.

In this edition:

- Arrangements for ongoing setting of work
- Information for pupils in Y7 – 9
- Information for pupils in Y10 and 11
- Is your child eligible for free school meals?
- Bradford Employment Support Helpdesk
- Families suffering financial hardship: BMBC
- Useful links

Independence at home:



Carys Straw has been working to create a showstopper at home! Carys said: "Attached are pics of my Easter showstopper cake. I'm very proud of it and I hope you like it. It is a chocolate sponge with a jam filling topped with coffee buttercream and mini eggs. For decoration I added an Easter chick and pom poms on cocktail sticks. My mum has already put an order in for a birthday cake made by me!! 😊🍰👩🍳 The rest of my family also said that it was delicious and I can make it again 🙌 😊😊😊"

A huge thank you

NHS



'Thank you' to our frontline and blue-light workers

As we come together as a nation to fight the coronavirus, we would like to take a moment to recognise those of you who are fulfilling key worker roles, particularly acknowledging the contribution made by those currently working for and supporting the NHS. On behalf of every member of our learning community, you have our deep appreciation and gratitude for all you are doing.

Working remotely

Tweet



Send any work you are proud of to twitter @qburyschool



Arrangements for the setting of student work after Easter

We have been impressed with the quality of work the majority of our pupils are completing at home during these unprecedented times. Our year 7, 8 and 9 teachers are setting work from the curriculum, which may be project themed or on a lesson by lesson basis so pupils can self-assess and evaluate their own learning as well as receiving feedback from staff. The main focus of this work is to enable them to continue with positive habits and routines of learning of the national curriculum. Teachers will endeavour to provide feedback on these pieces of work, however, due to the nature of the learning, the work completed will not always be teacher assessed at the level it would have been if the tasks were completed in school under normal circumstances.

This Friday, 17th April, we end our two-week Easter break. Staff will then be providing work for pupils to complete during subsequent weeks to allow them to continue with positive habits of learning.

All pupils will receive work in a variety of forms; both project-based and practical tasks to complete. We would ask that parents and carers help decide how much pupils complete each day in order to maintain a healthy body and mind. We look forward to these activities being embraced by our pupils as well as seeing amazing examples of their work which can be sent to @qburyschool to be posted on twitter. We would also encourage our parent/carers to get involved wherever possible!

Year 10: remember learning is important



We would like to thank you for your continued support in encouraging your children to continue working hard at home during this period of school closure. Our Year 10 have made a great start, with the vast majority of tasks being completed by our pupils. It is vital that they now maintain this during this difficult period to ensure that they stay up to date with subject content and their learning. Depending upon the length of the closure, this may well be content that our staff do not have time to cover again next year and therefore, the quality of work completed at home may well have a significant impact on the grades achieved next summer. By way of a reminder; pupils will be set work either on a lesson by lesson basis or in a 'block' which will vary for each subject of their examined classes, with clear instructions on Office 365 'Teams'. There is also a new link on the academy website with a video link to instructions advising them how to do this and how pupils can save and return their work.

If you have any questions please contact office@qa.fetrust.org.uk

If there is any further support you need, please do not hesitate to contact us via email to Office@qa.fetrust.org.uk

Connexions: Year 11

Even though the academy is closed, we wanted to make you aware that you can still get in touch with our Connexions adviser, who will be operating remotely during this time. The qualified advisers at Connexions can offer information and guidance on a range of topics including options after Year 11, helping pupils to research and/or apply for a place in a sixth form, college, apprenticeship or training. They can also provide pupils with information on qualifications such as BTECs, A Levels and NVQs, to assist them in making decisions about their future.

Careers Inc advisers can be contacted by completing the enquiry form which can be found here: <https://virtualconnexionsbradford.co.uk/> or email them on connexions.bradford@prospects.co.uk

It is still important that Year 11 engage with their teachers and in the learning process to avoid any knowledge gaps in the subjects they are studying. Year 11 is not over yet and they are entitled to an education!

Is your child eligible for free school meals?



The challenges faced by some families have led to changes in financial circumstances that may mean they now need to access benefits. If this applies to you, please check to see whether your child is now eligible to receive free school meals.

To qualify, your child will be in full time education and you receive one of the following benefits:

- **Income support**
- **Income based job seekers allowance**
- **Income related employment and support allowance**
 - **Guaranteed element of state pension credit**
- **Child tax credit with no working tax credit and an income as assessed by the Inland Revenue that does not exceed £16,190 (although this is subject to change annually)**
- **Support under Part 1V of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **Universal Credit with a household income of less than £7,300 per year (after tax and not including any benefits you receive)**

Please note, children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals.

Your child won't qualify if you are receiving working tax credits and disabled working tax credits, except for the 4-week run-on paid after you've stopped qualifying for working tax credits.

Further information including how to apply, is available via the following link: <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/services/childrenfamilies-and-education/schools-and-learning/freeschool-meals/> You can also call Bradford Council on **01274 432111**

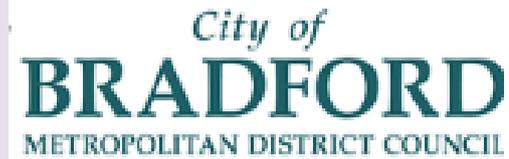
Pupils who are eligible for free school meals will continue to receive their entitlement throughout the school closure period, receiving an e-voucher each week.

Bradford employment help desk



During these difficult times, many residents are unfortunately facing uncertainty about their current and future employment. To address this, and to support Bradford residents, the Local Authority's employment and skills team have developed a simple, single point of contact to make it easier to speak to someone and access the free support available to residents who may have been:

- Furloughed
- Laid off/unemployed
- Are at risk of redundancy
- Looking to develop or grow skills



Bradford Council's Employment and Skills service has joined forces with Enterprising Bradford and other employment agencies to provide access for residents to employment and skills support. The Bradford Employment Helpdesk provides a simple single point of contact for all residents who would like to speak to someone and access support. The helpdesk will aim to respond to enquiries on the same day, with a referral to support within 24 hours.

• Support can be accessed through the website: </jobs/apply-for-a-council-job/completing-the-application-form/>

The Bradford Employment Helpdesk can provide advice to determine eligibility for Universal Credit and how to start and prepare claims; job searching, getting a CV ready, support with applications and interviews and access to free training if residents want to develop skills for a new role or promotion. Unfortunately, currently the helpdesk is only able to receive enquiries through the email address. However, if you need support and are unable to access email or webchat you can ask someone to email the helpdesk with your phone number on your behalf and someone from the helpdesk will contact you via telephone.

All Year 11 exam updates have been sent out via email, or can be found on our school website under latest, the parent or pupil tab. Please use them. We are also tweeting out useful links. Find us at @qburyschool we have included below quick links that have been shared over recent weeks that you may find helpful:

Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students during the school closure period:

[How students should access work during the school closure period: School Closure Video](#)



Parentkind
Bringing together home & school

Supporting learning, not home-schooling

The shutdown of schools because of the coronavirus emergency leaves us all in uncharted waters. This includes parents who are now dealing with the challenge of how best to help children who are at home. The first point to emphasise is that parents are not being asked to home-school children. Teachers will continue to provide learning programmes remotely. If you are unsure about any of the schemes of work provided, my advice is to check the school's website in the first instance for updates. Parents can instead focus on supporting learning during this period. With this in mind, here are some tips:

Secondary students

- **Chunk the work:** Instead of watching over your child to keep them on task, begin each day with a conversation about the work to be completed and together agree regular slots for them to show you what has been achieved. In the conversation you can discuss any learning barriers and help remove them.
- **Reading:** Secondary students might have extensive reading material. Those who are not engaged or who require additional support may find listening to audio books helpful. A timetable or routine may help, ensuring a small section is read daily.
- **Social media:** It can provide a way of connecting learning between friends via a learning 'group' to discuss answers, or to share related resources. Be alert to the dangers but do note the positive impact of working together virtually.

Primary & secondary

- **Breakfast/active start:** It is a good idea – after breakfast – to start the day with a light exercise session, for example, some stretches or yoga.
- **Workspace and organisation:** If possible, create a dedicated workspace. This helps distinguish between the space for learning and the areas for relaxation.
- **If it's not working, change it!:** If your child is struggling with a task and you don't know how to help them, then don't be afraid to move them on. The task can be revisited later if needed. Consider any wider support you could offer – can you assist with their learning from what you find together in the garden, or from online documentaries? The [BBC Bitesize website](#) is a good resource, and free!
- **Have a timetable:** Adding structure and routine may help you to work from home if you can timetable around your own commitments. Could the school tasks provided to your child fit into an approximate allocation of time, [as suggested in this example](#)?
- **Take regular breaks:** Stop frequently and stay hydrated – keep a water bottle filled up. If weather permits, get fresh air in the garden – you can come back to work later.

Stay positive

Don't underestimate the importance of the role you are playing. See this as an opportunity to spend time together. Be flexible; stop when you need to and adjust accordingly. You know your child better than anyone else, so do not feel like you are failing if you grant extended screen time, late bedtimes and lie-ins. Do factor in that primary school children can be less independent than secondary pupils and may require more time. Parents of secondary children may feel overwhelmed with the amount of subject specialist content involved and not know where to seek guidance. BBC Bitesize is a good place to start. **Parent community social media groups can be useful, but do not worry too much. We are all working together in challenging circumstances to maintain a new normality and structure for the children in our care.**