



# Nova Hreod Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Executive Principal: Ruth Robinson  
Headteacher: Nick Wells

**Nova Hreod Academy**

Akers Way, Swindon

Wiltshire SN2 2NQ

01793 528800

[admin@novahreodacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@novahreodacademy.org.uk)

[www.novahreodacademy.org.uk](http://www.novahreodacademy.org.uk)

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## Temporary Closure of Nova Hreod Academy

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that all schools in England will close temporarily for the vast majority of children from end of the day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

This decision has been taken on the advice of medical and scientific experts in order to manage the spread of COVID-19 and relieve pressure on the health system.

From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, students' education will continue from home.

By the end of this week we will send you specific details of how this will operate. We have prepared well for these circumstances so that all our students can continue their education from home during the closure. I am extremely grateful to staff across the academy for the way in which they have taken on this challenge.

The Academy will, however, remain open for two specific groups of students:

1. Those whose parents are defined by the Government as key workers, such as those employed in the NHS, emergency services, schools or elements of the food supply chain;
2. Those who are particularly vulnerable.

We have taken the decision to base our United Learning Cluster provision for children of key workers at the Swindon Academy Beech Avenue site. This means that the children of key workers who normally attend Swindon Academy, Alton Close or Nova Hreod Academy will come to the Beech Avenue site each day.

A text has been sent to each family asking them to confirm if they work in one of the job areas listed. They have been given the opportunity to request that their child to continue to attend school during the period of closure. If any family has not received this message and needs their child to attend school, they should contact Barbara Freeman at [b.freeman@novahreodacademy.org.uk](mailto:b.freeman@novahreodacademy.org.uk)

We will be identifying those students who are in the second category and will be contacting their parents and carers separately. If you believe your child falls into this latter category and you have not heard from us by 9am on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, please contact Penny King at [p.king@novahreodacademy.org.uk](mailto:p.king@novahreodacademy.org.uk)

The Government has also decided that no external exams will take place this academic year. Over the coming days, they will announce plans for how those due to sit them this year will be able to gain their qualifications. I know how important this will be for our older pupils and we will be ensuring that whatever is put in place can be implemented through the school in a way that does not penalise any of our pupils' places at university or Sixth Form.

\* Drive \* Integrity \* Scholarship \* Contribution



It may be that teacher assessments and predicted grades will be at the heart of the system this year. If so, it is possible that we will need to justify our assessed grades using pupils' work on paper and in books. For pupils in Years 11 and 13, therefore, while preparation for traditional exams will not be the focus, we are likely still to want to work with them in the coming weeks so that whatever is ultimately assessed for qualifications is representative of each pupil's best ability.

Over the next few days we will be in a position to update you further and provide additional information on ways we will be able to support your child during this time. In particular we will be finalising how we can ensure that students on Free School Meals will receive entitlement to food. We will be doing everything we can to deliver whatever is required of us by Government.

### **Concerns Throughout Closure**

If you have any concerns or require assistance while the school is closed, we have set up specific support email addresses for parents to use. These emails will be picked up remotely and forwarded to the relevant person.

**Safeguarding** – if you have any safeguarding concerns relating to a secondary age pupil you can raise these via email at [admin@novahreodacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@novahreodacademy.org.uk). A member of the Senior Leadership team or the Pastoral Team will get back to you as soon as possible.

**General Enquiries** - please use [admin@novahreodacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@novahreodacademy.org.uk) for any other assistance that you may require.

We are entering times of further uncertainty, speculation and concern and our responsibility as a school, like yours as a parent, is to give our young people the learning, support and reassurance that they will need in the coming weeks.

We will continue to update parents on a regular basis with important information as we receive it. We will continue to communicate with you by text but please do regularly check the school's website.

Thank you for your continued support and for working with us in the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Ruth Robinson