



**Queen Katharine  
Academy**

A proud member of



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Our Ref LM/jd

5 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you again following the Government announcement from yesterday evening. As you will be aware, all schools in England have been asked to close from today (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January) as part of a national lockdown. This has been planned in response to a surge in COVID-19 and a new variant in the virus.

This will mean that the vast majority of pupils will need to remain at home until further notice. We have no information at this stage regarding when schools will be able to re-open.

We will be providing online learning for all pupils while Queen Katharine Academy is closed. All pupils will start their learning remotely, via Microsoft Teams from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Students should log into Microsoft Teams using their school account and attend live lessons which will be delivered in accordance with their timetable. Work packs will be provided by post for those students without IT access.

Our school will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers, as was the case during the national lockdown from March to June last year. The criteria used to identify vulnerable children and key workers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We will continue to offer free school meals for eligible children during this period while the school is closed and further details regarding how this will work will follow in due course.

At the moment, there is no clear date for when primary and secondary schools will be able to re-open to pupils, but we will update you as soon as this information becomes available.

The Government has confirmed yesterday that GCSE and A-level examinations will not go ahead as planned. We will share more information with you on this as it becomes available to us.

We know this latest announcement will cause disruption for many families and we would like to thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we follow Government guidance.

As a school, we had planned over the Christmas break to ensure the school is as safe as possible for pupils and staff to return.

Your support is what got the school through 2020 and it is what will see us through the challenges of this next period.

Continued/



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While the school is closed, we encourage you to keep monitoring the Government's advice – the information can be found on the Government website: <https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus>.

We will continue to keep you updated and if you have any immediate questions please contact the school via [info@gka.education](mailto:info@gka.education)

Yours sincerely



**Mrs L Mayes**  
**Principal**