



9th April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Easter Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that the Easter break has brought with it some happiness and optimism; the nice weather certainly helps to lift spirits. It now seems like the ideal opportunity to update you on what is happening at Hazeley and answer a range of frequently asked questions.

Our gratitude goes out to the brave NHS staff who are on the front line of the battle, as well as the vast range of key workers who are going above and beyond supporting them, and keeping our society operating. Students and staff have been playing their part by gathering and delivering protective equipment that we have in the Academy, sending letters of support and of course taking part in the Thursday evening applause. If you would like to share how you have also been involved in supporting, then please email Mrs Cox who is coordinating the collation of these examples of support - ecox@thehazeleyacademy.com .

Our thoughts are also with the victims of the virus; those that are ill, those that have lost, or are nursing loved ones; and those who are suffering emotionally or struggling financially. It is more important than ever that we pull together as a community. Miss Whiteman, working in partnership with Shenley Brook End School, is leading a committed team of staff to ensure that our school remains open for our most vulnerable students and the children of key workers. Under the leadership of Miss Hamilton and Mrs Whittle and alongside Mr Hughes, many of our Year 7 students have been writing letters to residents of our local care home. Our finance team have worked hard to ensure that support for families relying on free school meals and 6th form bursaries receive them, as well as making sure that we are as supportive as we can be with our partner companies as they navigate this crisis.

Our duty is to follow the government guidance of staying at home, only going outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home). If you do go out, stay 2 metres away from other people at all times and wash your hands when you return. We should be doing all we can to ensure that others also follow this advice. We really are in this together - we need to model this advice and demand the same of others.

Our aspirations, as you would expect from Hazeley are not just to get through this, but to come back stronger.

Teaching staff, led by Mrs Williamson, are looking beyond the problems of distance learning and finding the opportunities to deliver truly great online learning that will be used far beyond this lock down period. I hope that you have joined the hundreds of other parents that are benefiting from The Hazeley Academy Parent Portal on Facebook.

As we move forward, we will begin to utilise the Microsoft Teams platform to post work and messages for each class. More information will follow in due course regarding this change. As with all our staff, Mrs Williamson is keen to receive your feedback and questions, it would be appreciated if you could complete the home learning survey via this link - [Home Learning Survey](#) or email her directly via - gwilliamson@thehazeleyacademy.com .

Mr Healy is leading the pastoral team to ensure that our students remain connected to, and supported by, our school community. From online assemblies to daily check-ins with vulnerable students, the pastoral team are there to support. If you have any further questions or comments, then please drop Mr Healy an email on SHealy@thehazeleyacademy.com . We also have a special email address for any students needing support - worried@thehazeleyacademy.com . This email is regularly checked by specialist pastoral staff, even over the holidays.

I must mention the support staff, who have shown true Hazeley spirit. They have been relentless in finding ways that they can contribute, from helping with the huge amount of background work needed to set up the online classrooms, to helping ensure that teaching staff have the resources they need to carry out their roles. We are all very fortunate to be supported by them.

Finally, at Hazeley we never aim to be “normal” - that would be boring. We never aim to be “perfect” - that would be impossible. We always aim to be amazing versions of ourselves, working in partnership to create a vibrant community of exceptional people. Thank you for playing your part in making this vision become a reality - it is exactly what our children and community need and deserve.

Keep safe and grow through playing your part.

Kind regards,



Mr Nelson
Principal

Frequently Asked Questions

The government have sent out a document for all parents addressing frequently asked questions in relation to how schools will be operating over the next few weeks/ months.

The full document can be read on the link below, but we have pulled out and adapted the main points so that they relate more specifically to you as the parents of Hazeley students.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Where can I get help to support my child with home learning?

There is a wealth of advice in the home learning newsletter, created by Mrs Williamson and her team which can be found on the Hazeley Academy's website or by following the link below.

<https://www.thehazeleyacademy.com/page/?title=NEWLETTERS&pid=106>

You can also join the 'The Hazeley Academy Parent Portal' on Facebook. Alternatively, click this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1158348127835751/?ref=share>

Finally, if you have subject specific questions simply email your child's subject teacher, you can normally expect a response within two school days. A list of all of teaching and support staff email addresses can be found in the Student Guide to Home Learning which can be found here - <https://www.thehazeleyacademy.com/page/?title=COVID%2D19+INFORMATION&pid=107>. If that does not lead to a resolution, then the subject leader can be contacted. If this does not lead to a speedy resolution then Mrs Williamson, Hazeley's Teaching and Learning Deputy Principal can be contacted (gwilliamson@thehazeleyacademy.com).

Where can I get help for my child if they are worried?

Form tutors are still the first point of call for pastoral issue but if the issue cannot be resolved by them, then it should be referred to the Progress Leader or R2L link for the year group. Finally if that does not lead to a speedy resolution, then Mr Healy Hazeley's Pastoral Deputy Principal can be contacted (shealy@thehazeleyacademy.com). A list of all teaching and support staff email addresses can be found in the Student Guide to Home Learning which can be found here - <https://www.thehazeleyacademy.com/page/?title=COVID%2D19+INFORMATION&pid=107>

If a student has a concern outside of the normal school week then the email address worried@thehazeleyacademy.com can be used. This is monitored daily by specialist pastoral staff.

How long will Hazeley be closed for?

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak schools will be closed to the majority of pupils until further notice. Our best estimate at Hazeley is September. Please note that this is only an estimate and staff are ready to restart as soon as the government gives the green light, equally we have plans in place to go beyond September if needed.

What about the exams this summer?

If you are a Y11 or Y13 student or the parent of a Y11 or 13 students, then it is important that you read the details of the letters. Parents and students in Years 11 and 13 have already received this information, but they can also be found on our website - <https://www.thehazeleyacademy.com/page/?title=COVID%2D19+INFORMATION&pid=107>

If you have further questions, then all Y13 enquires should go to Mrs Mayles - BMayles@thehazeleyacademy.com and all Y11 enquires should go to Miss Whiteman - twhiteman@thehazeleyacademy.com

If you were due to sit an AS or GCSE re-sit exam this summer, please read the Year 13 letter, so you understand the process of the teacher assessments.

Students who were due to sit GCSEs in other year groups to year 11, you will simply sit the exam at a later date.

Please do not contact individual subject teachers.

Will the school remain open for the children of key workers or vulnerable children?

Yes, if you have any specific questions then please email Miss Whiteman who is leading what we refer to as “the small school” - twhiteman@thehazeleyacademy.com

If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

Our aim is to go above and beyond for all those that need our support.

Is my child counted as vulnerable?

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Children who have a social worker include children in need, children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority.

If you have any questions in relation to this please contact Miss Whiteman - twhiteman@thehazeleyacademy.com

What if I have to leave my children unattended?

There is no law about when you can leave your child on their own, but it is an offence to leave them alone if it places them at risk. As parents, you should use your judgement on how mature your child is before you decide to leave them at home. Here is more information on [the law on leaving children unattended](#).

Is it compulsory for parents of vulnerable children to accept their place offer?

There is an expectation that vulnerable children who have a social worker will attend Hazeley, so long as they do not have underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk than others. In circumstances where a parent does not want to bring their child to an Hazeley, and their child is considered vulnerable, the social worker and our pastoral team will explore the reasons for this directly with the parent and offer support from a distance if needed. Those with an EHC plan will be looked at on a case by case basis. Many students with EHC plans can safely remain at home and will be assisted by online support.

Free school meals

Parents of all children on free school meals should have received an email from the Academy. If you have not or believe your child is eligible for free school meals then please drop the finance team an email and they will do all that they can to support you - finance@thehazeleyacademy.com

Please be vigilant and only respond to this email, as we have heard of scammers trying to steal bank details.

Where can I go to get support to help keep my child safe online?

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> - advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online

[Internet matters](#) - support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

[Parent info](#) - support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

[LGfL](#) - support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

[Net-aware](#) - support for parents and carers from the NSPCC