

Friday 27th March

To the parents/carers of pupils attending Wellsway Multi Academy Trust Schools

As we come to the end of the first week of school closure, we are reflecting with pride on what has been put in place in such a short space of time to support our pupils learning at home and to provide a service for vulnerable children and the children of key workers. Our lives have changed massively during this period but we have all felt the benefit of being part of a family of schools and drawing on the support of others.

Working at home

We hope your child has had a good week and is making good use of the guidance and resources they have been given by their school. Maintaining a routine and keeping occupied is important in a time such as this and doing school work each day should be a help. We also appreciate this is tricky for parents and we are looking at ways we can improve the connection between teachers and children over the coming weeks that should help to take the pressure off you.

GCSE & A LEVELS

We are expecting the government to publish the details next week about how GCSE and A Level grades will be awarded in the absence of exams. We expect this will take into account a range of information including prior attainment, predicated grades and mock exam results. We will update you as soon as we know. It has been suggested that students will be able to take an exam in the autumn however, if they are unhappy with a grade they have been awarded. This means, of course, that they should keep on working in case they find themselves in this situation.

Key Worker Child Care Provision

This will run right through the Easter holiday to help ensure that people working in jobs that are critical to the COVID-19 response, such as the NHS, can get to work whilst their children are out of school. We are very grateful to all the members of staff who are coming in to work themselves to provide this service.

Free School Meals

So far this week we have produced about a thousand food packages that will provide a healthy meal for the week for our free school meals pupils. To reduce unnecessary movement we have delivered almost half of these, something we are looking to do for all packages next week. This has been an impressive effort from our catering team and colleagues who have distributed these packages.



Supporting critical workers with personal protective equipment (PPE)

We were very pleased this week to help the COVID-19 effort this week by collecting over 500 pairs of goggles/visors from all our secondary schools to distribute to front line workers, including a local hospital, community nurses and emergency social workers.



The colleague who led this initiative said:

“I am writing to pass on gratitude and thanks for the kind donation of the PPE equipment from schools within the trust. As I distributed them this morning I have been the recipient of overwhelming thanks from:

Walk-in Clinics; The Bristol Community Respiratory Team; The Ambulance Service (who have been unable to dispatch crews due to lack of PPE); Local GPs. Many thanks to all of you for collecting the considerable amount of goggles, face shields, masks and gloves together. I am proud to be part of this trust”.

WMAT PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

WE are pleased to launch our first cross trust competition, which is open to all children and young people attending a WMAT school. It is our intention to make this a weekly activity during the period of school closure. Details of the competition can be found here - [photography competition link](#)

On behalf of all our schools, we would like to say a big thank you to parents and carers for the sterling work you are doing at home and to those parents who are key workers, a big thank you for what you are doing to help keep us safe.

Well done to all the children and young people who have worked hard this week. Keep it up and look after one another.

Have a restful weekend.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A Arlidge'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'A' and a stylized 'Arlidge'.

Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive