



Pride in ourselves,
pride in our school,
pride in our community.

High Street
Arlesey
Beds
SG15 6SL
Tel: 01462 732002
Email: GMA-Office@bestacademies.org.uk

6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by thanking the staff of Gothic Mede Academy. I think that to find out about the changes to Government policy at 8:00pm and be welcoming key workers and vulnerable pupils into class the following morning at 8:30am, as well as providing remote learning activities and videos, is nothing short of impressive (knowing what was involved in that). For those of you who were not already aware, we are really lucky to have the team of staff that we do at Gothic Mede Academy.

Thank you as well for your patience and understanding at this time. This is a really tough time for everyone. Adding the education and supervision of your children to your daily duties, as well as the jobs that many of you will need to also continue, is a daunting prospect, especially if you did not find this an easy task last year during lockdown. We are here to support you in every way that we can. We have a family support worker, Mrs Milligan, who can provide and signpost support for families in their home lives, we have a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator, Mrs Sugden, who can give advice to all parents of children with SEND, and our class teachers and leadership team can give support when it comes to delivering your child's curriculum. All of these members of staff can be contacted through the school office using GMA-Office@bestacademies.org.uk

Google Classroom

In my email to you on Monday night, I sent out our remote learning policy which outlines our intention when it comes to delivering a curriculum to your child while they are at home. As you can imagine, staffing difficulties will affect the efficacy of this policy but we will endeavour to achieve our aims as soon as possible.

If you don't know your child's login details for Google Classroom, please can you be in touch with Mrs Deacon who now has the rights to reset these. Please provide information in an email to GMA-Office@bestacademies.org.uk and this will be passed on.

Eligibility for a school place

The government's policy for eligibility for a school place is vulnerable children and those with:
Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required.

We have offered places to children based on these criteria and will continue to do so as long as Government policy remains the same and we have sufficient staffing to offer this.

It is worth noting, however, that this is to allow critical workers to work, not to say that the children of key workers deserve a better education than those of parents who are not critical workers. The principle of school closures is to bring numbers as low as possible to keep pupils and staff safe. If you have someone at home who is 18 or over and can look after your child, and they are not classed as vulnerable, I would suggest that you should not be taking up a place in school. As I mentioned before, this is a tough time for everyone, but we must all do what we can to reduce the risk of transmission for those who *must* be in school, including staff and children.

Principal: Thomas Clarke
Vice Principal: Nicola Davis
Chair of Governors: Jo Graves



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So that we can keep numbers as low as possible, if you have been offered a place, please can you fill in the following form to indicate when you need a school place for your child each week? We will only be able to offer full days. Please only fill this in if you have been offered a place already. Vulnerable children will attend school every day.

[Gothic Mede Academy Critical Worker Days Needed](#)

We are seeing much higher numbers of children taking up places than we were expecting, which is why I am requesting this.

Uniform

Please can those children who are coming into school wear their school uniform, apart from their PE days, when they should wear their Gothic Mede Academy PE kit. Please can you also make sure that your child is wearing sufficient layers and a coat as we are having to ventilate the classrooms in line with Government guidance and this makes the classrooms colder than is comfortable at times.

Lunches and snacks

For those children who have a school place, we are continuing to provide hot meals or grab-a-bags and morning snacks. Please communicate through the office about these in the normal way. Those who are educating at home and qualify for Free School Meals as a result of parental income support will be contacted separately.

As always, please contact the office using GMA-Office@bestacademies.org.uk if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mr Thomas Clarke – Principal

Principal: Thomas Clarke
Vice Principal: Nicola Davis
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