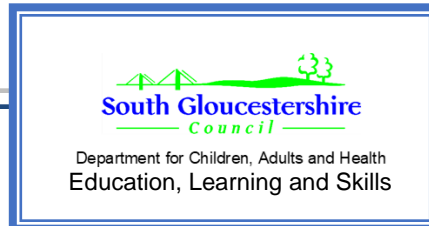


COVID19 Education Continuity Newsletter



Issue 9: 15th April 2020

Public Health England now has updated the guidance on COVID-19 for educational settings [here](#) Keep checking daily.



Easter Provision Thank You!

As a Local Authority we have been overwhelmed by the numbers of people who have put themselves forward to volunteer to support the families of NHS and Care workers over the Easter weekend and the response has been absolutely amazing and a credit to the education profession. We know of caretakers, teaching assistants, teachers, Heads, administration staff that have wanted to help and support –in total well over 300. The simplest words we can use are **THANK YOU!**

Although numbers were low, there was still a need for a handful of pupils to have care. We hosted one site, Bromley Heath Junior, and would like to thank Headteacher, Abbie Hodge, as well as staff at Progressive Sports and the volunteers who supported this provision over the Easter weekend.

We will be sharing this amazing response with Council leaders and thank colleagues at Bradley Stoke (OAT), City Academy (CLF) and Bromley Heath Junior in particular for offering to host.

Admission to School

Primary Admissions (National Offer Day): Offers for those who applied on-time will go out to parents as normal on 16 April 2020 either via the Citizen portal for online applicants or via email for those applicants who originally applied using the paper application form. If you become aware of any parents/carers who do not receive an offer, please advise them to contact the Admissions team on 01454 868008 or

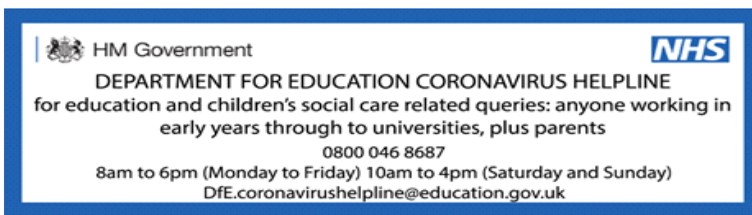
AdmissionsandTransport@southglos.gov.uk

Please be aware that we have limited access to postal services. Therefore, should you wish to send any paperwork into the Admissions team please ensure that this is scanned and sent via email to AdmissionsandTransport@southglos.gov.uk

Secondary school admissions (Second Round): Applications being dealt with as part of the second round continue to be processed. Details of second round offers will be sent to parents/carers via email during early May 2020.

Admission Appeals (Primary and Secondary): The Council is monitoring government guidance for managing admission appeals. It is likely that alternative arrangements will be made in order to hold admission appeal hearings. Details to follow as soon as they are known.

In year applications (Primary and Secondary): While there have been no changes set by central government on the processing of applications for in-year admissions, we are asking parents to consider carefully whether to make an application to transfer schools and delay this where possible during this emergency period. In the case of in year applications from vulnerable families (who may have moved to South Gloucestershire during February/beginning of March and for whom there is no link with their existing school for educational and safeguarding support eg, moved from abroad, moved as a result of domestic violence), it will be important that we work with you to ensure that children are placed on roll, even where the child may not physically attend school for some time.



Thank you message from the Secretary of State for Education

Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, has recorded a message for staff across the education and children's social care sectors thanking you for all the exceptional work that you are doing during this challenging time. The message can be viewed here:

<https://twitter.com/GavinWilliamson/status/1245763274496507904>

Examinations

The government announced recently that both GCSE and A level Examinations were to be cancelled in the Summer Term 2020. They have now confirmed that students who were due to sit A level, AS level or GCSE exams this summer will now receive a calculated grade. The calculated grade process will take account of a range of evidence including other assessments and mock results, with the approach standardised between schools and colleges.

For those pupils undertaking technical or vocational qualifications the priority is to ensure that student and adult learners can move on as planned to the next phase of their lives, the government are working with Ofqual and will update us shortly on these.

Guidance from Ofqual on how qualifications will be graded and awarded in summer 2020 can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcses-as-and-a-level-awarding-summer-2020>

Summer 2020 exams and school/college accountability

The department has confirmed that it will not hold schools or colleges to account on the basis of exams and assessment data from summer 2020, and that others, such as Ofsted and local authorities, should adopt the same approach. We will not be publishing, or sharing, institution-level school and college accountability measures, such as Progress 8 and Level 3 Value Added, using the summer 2020 data.

We have set out details of statistical publications that will not be released this year and will be providing a further update for settings in due course.

Updates on forthcoming statistical publications can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/statistics>

South Gloucestershire Key Updates

Good news stories – we are keen to highlight the good work happening in the community such as [these essential supplies](#) being delivered to those who are shielding. Look out for our #HiddenHeroes on the council's social media channels Twitter [@sglosCouncil](#) Facebook [@sglosCouncil](#)

Contacting us – please see www.southglos.gov.uk/keepingintouch for key contact information for the council. If in doubt, either email our contact centre corporatecontactcentre@southglos.gov.uk or phone us on **01454 868009**.

Service updates – for the latest on council service change please see: www.southglos.gov.uk/servicedisruption

Key changes include:

- **One Stop Shops** – closed except for emergencies such as homelessness
- **Libraries** closed – all loans have been extended free of charge to 1 July
- **Play areas** - closed but our parks and open spaces currently remain open for daily exercise but not gatherings
- **Public toilets** – closed
- **Public transport** – many services now reduced and some suspended for details see: <https://travelwest.info/coronavirus>
- **Concessionary fares** – Diamond travelcard holders can now travel free at any time on bus journeys starting South Gloucestershire, Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, and North Somerset. The restrictions have been relaxed to help older and disabled people take advantage of the dedicated early opening hours at certain shops.
- **Registration service** – only available for registering deaths
- **Schools** – closed except for vulnerable children, children with education, health and care plans (EHCPs) and children of key workers but to be used only as a last resort. There will be some provision at each school over the Easter term break, this varies on a local level.
- **Waste services** – Sort It centres closed, black bin waste collected as usual (but may take longer); recycling and food collections will change from weekly to every two weeks and will be on the same day as your black bin; garden waste collections cease and large household waste item collections have been suspended.

Businesses – we have received 1,078 small business grant and 294 retail and hospitality grant requests so far. For details of how to apply and all our business support information see www.southglos.gov.uk/businessinfo

NHS Nightingale hospital in Frenchay - Work has begun to convert the Exhibition and Conference Centre (ECC) on UWE Bristol's Frenchay campus into a temporary hospital able to look after up to 1,000 patients if needed during the peak of coronavirus. The hospital is expected to be available to receive patients w/c 20th April 2020. The measure follows the creation of similar temporary hospitals in London, Manchester and Birmingham.

New communications materials - Public Health England have launched new communications materials focusing on the message 'anyone can spread it'. These are available to download from their resource centre: <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/>



Council tax and general welfare support - we have further bolstered our Council Tax Reduction scheme and there are a range of welfare support to those struggling financially https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/information-for-residents/#mctoc_1e48ngsutdf

Sirona single point of contact - now live, the Sirona care & health Single Point of Access - a non-emergency 24 hour telephone number for adult community health services across South Gloucestershire, Bristol and North Somerset - 0300 125 6789 <https://www.sirona-cic.org.uk/>

Domestic violence and abuse - We are urging those supporting others in the community to spot signs of domestic violence and abuse. Tackling domestic abuse is an issue that we, as a council, take extremely seriously and are all too aware that vulnerable people may be affected due to the impact of the coronavirus response. If you either see or hear anyone showing any signs of domestic abuse – either physical or behavioural - at this worrying time, this could include bruises, regular shouting, arguments or signs of controlling behaviour, please do report it. There are various agencies you can report this to, please familiarise yourself with our guidance available here – www.southglos.gov.uk/domesticabuse. But please remember, if you think anyone is in immediate risk of harm, you should contact the police urgently, call 999.

South Glos Community Aid hub – we need your help to encourage local voluntary groups who are doing some amazing work in the community to register here www.southglos.gov.uk/communityaid and then encourage any residents in need to check out what is available in their area www.southglos.gov.uk/communityaiddirectory

WhatsApp information service - This new free-to-use service aims to provide official, trustworthy and timely information and advice about coronavirus and reduce the burden on NHS services. To use the free service on WhatsApp, simply add **07860 064422** in your phone contacts and then message the word 'hi' in a WhatsApp message to get started.

Further information – useful official sources of information

- South Gloucestershire Council dedicated landing webpage – www.southglos.gov.uk/coronavirus
- South Gloucestershire Council social media accounts, twitter <https://twitter.com/sglosCouncil> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/sglosCouncil/>
- Latest information from the Government on coronavirus www.gov.uk/coronavirus
- NHS information on coronavirus www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
- Q&A from Public Health England on coronavirus <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuha-n-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>





Local Authority Safeguarding Monitoring of Vulnerable Pupils

Over the next few weeks, your school will receive a safeguarding monitoring email from the Local Authority. This will be addressed to the Headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead and SENCO. You will have already received an email last week, with full details of what the monitoring process will involve, along with the questions that the LA officer will ask.

This will be a valuable opportunity to discuss your school safeguarding processes for vulnerable pupils and to talk about any concerns you have for vulnerable pupils who are not attending school.

The Local Authority and schools have a statutory duty to ensure safeguarding processes are robust during this unprecedented time. We understand that this is a challenging and unpredictable time for us all and we want to ensure you feel well supported in carrying out your processes and also to ensure education, health and social care are working collaboratively to share information, advice and guidance to keep every child safe.

Keeping children safe during the COVID-19 period is a top priority for education, health and social care. The information gathered from this monitoring process will be fed into a weekly meeting with the Heads of Education, Health and Social care. Thank you to you and your staff for all you are doing to support children and young people during this difficult time.

Free School Meals

It is for schools to decide locally how their arrangements for free school meals will operate. If there is a local arrangement to supply food that the school and the supplier intend to continue over this period then that can be agreed and managed locally and schools will be compensated for these costs up to the value of £15 per eligible pupil. **Schools will also be able to continue using the national voucher scheme during the Easter holidays. This is a significant update and as stated - now creates the opportunity for schools to use the National Voucher Scheme during the Easter period. However, we are aware that there have been problems with the DfE system and this is causing delays to families in receiving meals.**

We are always committed to supporting schools, but we are limited on the support we can offer for the DfE National Voucher Scheme unfortunately. We do ask that queries in relation to this specific scheme, if unresolved, are directed to the DfE.

Further DfE info can be found [here](#).

Integra IT Update – Skype

If you subscribe to Integra IT, Skype for Business is being set up for all schools.

We have taken the decision enable ‘Always On VPN’ for all encrypted laptops. The majority of these will be laptops used by teaching and office staff. It will not include any devices used for curriculum purposes as these are not encrypted.

What does this mean? This will enable staff to have access to everything they would connect to in school including shared drives, SIMS, email etc. This is for all Integra Schools IT supported schools.

In order for this to become active you will need to do a full reboot of your laptop 3 times while at school, after which when you are at home the always on VPN will automatically connect. A ‘how to’ sheet has been emailed to all subscribing schools.

Skype for business will be enabled for all teaching and office staff. This is a useful tool for keeping touch with each other, via instant messaging, voice or video calls. To login in you will need to use your username followed by @sgcyp.org.uk(i.e. username@sgcyp.org.uk) and your current password. Attached is a simple how to. For head teachers we are **hoping** that this will also enable you to contact people in the Children, Adults and Health department via this method so you can have conference/video calls with key colleagues, but we will confirm in due course.

We are also looking at enabling google classroom for all Integra Schools IT supported schools, more details will follow.

With the ever-changing situation it is anticipated that the service desk will be working at reduced capacity. I would urge you log any calls via email to servicedesk@integra.co.uk with a phone number for us to call you back whether you are working at home or at school. This will help us distribute calls to technicians who may be working from home and they will call you back.

Andreas Burt
ICT Strategy Manager
Integra



