

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you again to update you on our response to the risks around the coronavirus and our preparation for any potential closure. Obviously, our key concern is the health of everyone in the school community, and that students continue to receive the very best standards of education.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, we are following the government guidance and monitoring the situation carefully. The link to access the current government guidance is:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The current guidance stresses the importance of washing hands regularly and effectively. This means washing them for 20 seconds with soap & water. We have spoken to our students several times about this and I urge you to do the same.

The guidance is for schools to continue as normal and we would urge parents to send children to school as normal. Anyone presenting with the symptoms of Coronavirus should stay at home and self-isolate for 7 days, these symptoms being:

- Raised temperature
- New persistent cough.

It is important to note that there are plenty of children, and adults, who may have a cold at this time of year, but may not be infected with the Coronavirus. If you feel your child needs to stay at home because they are presenting the symptoms associated with the Coronavirus, please contact the school in the usual way and inform us.

To ensure as much protection as possible from the virus we have taken the following steps:

- We are postponing all trips and activities out of school.
- We have enhanced our cleaning procedures in school
- We are providing hand sanitiser at key locations around the school
- We are restricting visitors to the school. Only essential visitors will be allowed into school.

At the present time the government is not suggesting that schools close and we hope to avoid this. If there is any closure, we will let you know via the app, text message, email and our website. As a precaution we are preparing work for all year groups, so that students can continue with their learning in the event of a closure. This work will involve some paper-based resources and some on-line resources. These resources will be on the school system and MathWatch. All students will be reminded of their passwords to these systems and how to use them. We will distribute this work if and when a closure is imminent.

During any closure, staff will be emailing you son/daughter every day to provide support and advice. These emails will be sent to your son/daughter's school email account. We ask that you support the school by ensuring that your son/daughter accesses their email account and completed their school work each day.

This is a particularly worrying time for year 11 students. The work we are providing them is mainly exam preparation material. We have not been told anything from the government about the GCSE exams. Our assumption is that they will go ahead as normal and all year 11s have been issued with a timetable. It is clearly vital that all year 11 students work very hard during any closure period.

We will be providing support to students who are entitled to Free School Meals, during any closure. We will contact eligible families separately about this.

The Department of Education have a helpline up and running to answer questions about COVID19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687 or email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

We have been reassuring our students that although the virus is a serious issue, the vast majority of people who catch it, make a full recovery. We have also explained to students the importance of listening to reputable organisations, including the government, for information and ignoring social media rumours.

Thank you for your support, with this difficult issue. If you have any concerns please contact the school.

Yours...