



**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

## **Coronavirus (Covid-19) - Update for Parents/Carers**

Dear Parents/Carers,

The government's announcement late yesterday has further altered the picture with regard to the management of the coronavirus.

The new guidance states that:

*The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:*

- *new continuous cough and/or*
- *high temperature*

If these symptoms arise:

- *if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started. (See ending isolation section below for more information)*
- *if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill*

The full guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The new guidance is clear that all members of a household where someone shows the symptoms need to stay at home for 14 days from the start of those symptoms.

### **Staffing**

These new measures have had a considerable impact on staffing at school today and will do for the foreseeable future. We anticipate that we will be reduced by around 35 teaching staff from tomorrow morning.

### **Partial closure**

In order to maintain the safety of students on site, we will therefore be closing the school to Key Stage 3 students for the remainder of the week. To be clear, for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March:

**Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 should not attend school, nor come onto site during the school day.**

For students in Key Stages 4 and 5, we will continue to run classes:

**Students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 should continue attend school.**

There will inevitably be some cover of classes, including sixth form classes. Where we are able to, we will match specialists to cover those classes. Where that is not possible for a sixth form class, the study centre will remain open. We hope to be able to sustain this arrangement for the rest of the week, but will update you if that changes.

### **Next week**

No decisions have been made about the provision for next week, but you will appreciate that, with a 14-day isolation period, it is unlikely to change. We will endeavour to inform you as soon as possible so that you can plan for the week ahead.

### **Students with vulnerable health conditions**

The government has updated this advice and that advice can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Please be assured that we believe that it is right to prioritise health concerns, stay at home and we will support absences where there is an underlying health condition.

### **Coursework deadlines**

We understand that there is some concern about coursework deadlines where a student is not currently in school. We have not received any guidance from the exam boards at present, but we will work to ensure that no student is disadvantaged as a consequence of looking after their health. Whilst the scale of this situation is unusual, policies already exist to help students during exam time where health issues emerge. As soon as we know more from the exam boards, we will communicate that to you.

### **Duke of Edinburgh**

We are postponing the silver expedition due next week. Once we are able to see any further guidance in the next week or so, a decision will be made about the bronze expedition due to take place after Easter.

### **Trip and visits payments**

We fully understand that with the current uncertainty, parents will want to withhold payments for future trips and events, such as enrichment week. We will not be holding to the previous deadlines that we have set out, so that parents should not feel they have to find the money at this time.

Finally, a reminder that the Government has an enquiries helpline for parents/carers, young people and school staff on **0800 046 8687**, open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Alternatively, you can email: [DfE.coronavirus@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirus@education.gov.uk)

I am very grateful for the messages of support that we have received from our community – thank you. That appreciation does make the job of our staff that little bit easier.

Yours faithfully,



Mark Woodlock  
Headteacher