

Wednesday 11th March, 2020

Dear parent / carer,

Update on the Corona Virus (COVID19)

We continue to monitor the advice from the government and the NHS on a daily basis. While we still remain in the 'containment' phase we will continue as normal with scheduled events until there is a clear directive that we should be doing something different.

Handwashing and good hygiene remain crucial and we will continue to remind pupils of this. As a school, we have ensured that there is plenty of soap for use in school.

If your child is unwell and presents with flu-like symptoms, please do not send them into school. If you are worried that the symptoms might be COVID-19, the advice is to ring 111, not to go to a GP.

It is possible that we may be asked to close the school at some stage over the coming weeks or months because of the Corona Virus. If this is the case during term time, we will use the school's text and email systems as well as Twitter and Instagram. If this happens outside normal working hours, we will post updates on our website, so please check regularly over the holidays. Please be assured that we have in place a contingency plan to continue to educate pupils remotely through the use of, Show My Homework and other learning platforms. Using these, work can be set, submitted and assessed.

Travelling

In the unlikely event that you or your child travels outside the UK at the weekends, please check the latest travel advice from the government which is update on a daily basis and self- isolate on return if necessary. <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>. Please also consider carefully any travel plans for the Easter holidays. As you are aware, this is an evolving situation so please do check regularly.

On return to school after the Easter holidays, assuming we are open, we will ask pupils to declare where they have been over the Easter holidays and will follow up any concerns we have. Your support in this is greatly appreciated.

Some parents and pupils have expressed concern about the potential impact on this summer's GCSE and A level exams. The current advice from Ofqual and two major exam boards is outlined below:

Ofqual

We recognise that students, parents, schools and colleges will be concerned about the possible impact of coronavirus on the 2020 summer exam series. Our advice at this time is to continue to prepare for exams and other assessments as normal.

We continue to work closely with exam boards, other regulators and the Department for Education and we have met to plan for a range of scenarios, as the public would expect. Our overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum.

It is still many weeks until exams start and we will issue updated advice if necessary, giving schools and colleges as much notice as possible.

Pearson

We are working with colleagues in Ofqual, the Department for Education (DfE) and the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and monitoring the situation closely.

There are well-established processes in place for dealing with many of the scenarios which a coronavirus outbreak might cause, including individual students missing exams due to illness. We will ensure there are appropriate contingency plans in place to deal with all eventualities should there be a widespread outbreak of coronavirus over the exams season.

OCR

We are working closely with the other major exam boards, our regulator Ofqual and with the DfE, to monitor the coronavirus outbreak in the UK. We regularly review risks to the smooth running of exams and this includes the potential impact of coronavirus on those taking and administering exams. Ofqual's current advice is that "students should continue to prepare for the summer exams as usual and schools and colleges should ensure their contingency plans are up to date"

The Department for Education have set up a helpline for staff, parents and young people. The contact details are:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

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

We will, of course, continue to keep you informed as the situation develops.

Yours sincerely,

Mr ALM Bull

Headteacher