

13 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) – Update

Yesterday, the government moved the response to the COVID-19 outbreak from the 'contain' phase to the 'delay' phase. This means additional measures and advice are now in place and plans are being made for further and more serious action.

At the moment, we remain open and we are operating normally. However, it is important that you are aware that we have plans in place should the situation worsen or should we be required to fully or partially close the school.

Please do read school emails regularly and keep checking the school website and social media platforms for further updates.

In addition, travel advice is being updated continuously. Please see the link at the bottom of this letter for the latest advice.

Self-Isolation

The new advice is that anyone exhibiting the following symptoms should undergo a period of 7 days of self-isolation. The symptoms are:

- A heightened temperature (above 37.8°C) or
- A new continuous cough.

Please do not send your son/daughter/ward to school if they show any of these symptoms. This advice is given to ensure that you and your families can stay as safe as possible.

There is not a requirement to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation, although if the symptoms are no better after 7 days then the advice is to call NHS 111 or contact NHS 111 online. Alternatively, you can seek advice from your GP by telephone.

It is also important for you to keep us informed should you or your son/daughter/ward need to self-isolate. This information will be treated with the strictest of confidence but will allow us to monitor the changing local circumstances.

Hygiene Measures

Basic hand-washing remains the most important simple measure to prevent the virus spreading. Please keep reminding your children of the need to maintain these good routines.

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Pre-Existing Medical Conditions

Should your son/daughter/ward have a pre-existing medical condition that might make him/her more susceptible to the virus, please do take and act on the advice of you GP or medical consultant. Please do keep me informed of any decisions that might mean your son/daughter/ward misses schooling. We will endeavour to provide some online learning to support them at this time.

If your son/daughter/ward is an asthma sufferer, there is some useful advice on the 'Asthma UK' website. The link is at the bottom of this letter.

Remote Education

Should Public Health England or the government decide that the school should partially or fully close, education provision will continue during term-time.

We are working on our preparations for such an eventuality and this will require students to access our learning platforms remotely. The vast majority of students can access materials through the school's 'SharePoint', and many of them also access additional learning materials such as 'Sam Learning'.

Every child has their own username and password for these resources. Please do take the opportunity to check that your son/daughter/ward can gain access from home. If there are difficulties, then your son/daughter/ward should ensure that this is resolved by speaking to one of our Digital Ambassadors in the school library, the school librarian, or one of our IT technicians. This can be done in school next week.

If we are required to close, further details and arrangements will be issued to you so that you can support your son/daughter/ward with their ongoing education.

Public Examinations

Year 11 and Year 13 students (and Year 10 students taking GCSE statistics) are working hard for their public examinations. At this stage, our expectation is that these will proceed as normal. Should the situation change, we will take the advice from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) or the government and we will keep you informed of developments.

The top priority for students is to ensure that coursework is completed to a high standard and in line with our published deadlines. Please keep supporting you son/daughter/ward and also ensure that revision for the examinations is properly planned and completed.

It would also be advisable to ensure that your son/daughter/ward has a full set of revision books to support their preparation for examinations. The School Shop is fully stocked with revision materials; you can order and pay for these through our online payment system [here](#).

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Further Advice

A new helpline has been launched and is open to parents/carers and students.

- Email: dfc.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk
- Phone: 0800 046 8687
- Open from: 8.00am - 6.00pm (Monday - Friday)

UPDATES ON COVID-19

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

TRAVEL ADVICE

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

ASTHMA ADVICE

- <https://www.asthma.org.uk/coronavirus>

As I have previously stated, the safety of our students remains our most important concern. Thank you for your on-going understanding and support at this time.

Yours faithfully,



Euan Ferguson
Headteacher

