

18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

With things changing so quickly with Coronavirus, I wanted to send you the updated health advice and let you know what we are doing at our school to manage the situation.

The Government is now providing daily updates on the steps it is taking to help fight Coronavirus and has said **that schools are to remain open.**

So far, we do not have any confirmed cases of coronavirus in our school.

We want to keep the school open for all students for as long as possible whilst government guidance still allows this. We are working hard as a school community to maintain as much stability for the students' education as possible.

However, there are a number of logistical and staffing issues which now make this challenging on a whole school basis. **We have, therefore, decided to close the school for Year 9 from Thursday 19th March 2020 until further notice.** The reason for choosing this year group is that the Y9 students have not yet commenced their GCSE courses and will be less disadvantaged because of this than other year groups. We want to support the work of key workers in our local community at this challenging time. If you are a key worker in any of these groups: NHS worker, teacher, police officer or firefighter, please contact the school so that we can make arrangements to keep your child in school for the time being.

All other year groups should still attend school as normal.

We know that you will understand that it is not possible for us to confirm at this stage the exact period of closure for these students. However, please rest assured that we will open again to those year groups affected as soon as is practicable. We will ensure that students have learning to complete during this period via INA's website. Please do ensure that your child completes the learning set to a high standard. We have attached a **Guide for Parents on how to support their child's learning from home.** This can also be found on the school website.

The health guidance updated yesterday by the Government now states that:

- The symptoms of the virus are a high temperature **and/or** a new continuous cough. Everyone living with someone showing symptoms of the virus must **self-isolate for 14 days**
- People should avoid unnecessary social contact including not visiting restaurants, pubs and theatres
- From the weekend, pregnant women, those over 70 and those with underlying health issues should limit social contact for 12 weeks



- All unnecessary travel should be limited, and people should work from home where they can.

Information on the stay at home advice from Government is here -
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

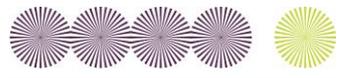
NHS guidance is here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We will continue to update you on any developments via email/texts and with regular updates on the school website.

Thank you for your understanding of the school's decisions in these exceptional circumstances.

Kind regards

Jo Spencer
Interim Principal



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