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DW/CM

17 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update

I am writing to update you on the situation in schools following the change in government approach yesterday.

### Pupils who should not be in school

- Any pupil with a cough **or** a high temperature should not be in school and should self isolate for **7 days**. We are taking a very cautious approach to this in students who we are sending home and we ask you do the same. This is to minimise the risk to the rest of the large school population.
- Students who live with someone who has symptoms should not be in school and should self isolate for **14 days**. The 14 day period is to allow 7 days for the symptoms to potentially develop and 7 days to pass the point of infection.
- Students who are vulnerable due to medical conditions are strongly advised to be “largely shielded” from the virus. I would therefore strongly advise these students do not come to school.

### Work for self isolating students

As I said in my letter last week, staff are already preparing for the possibility of students having to work at home. Our priority continues to be supporting Year 11 and Year 13 students who are preparing for public examinations. We will be providing work for all year groups but this will take time, so thank you for your patience and understanding. In the mean time students can access BBC Bitesize and Hegarty Maths for activities.

For most year groups we will communicate work via Class Charts. A significant amount of it will need access to the internet. If this will be difficult for you please contact your child’s Head of Year.

### Potential School Closure

Currently schools are expected to stay open, however, as things change daily, at some point we may be instructed by the Government to fully close.

However, as you would expect, some school staff also need to either self isolate or stay at home. If we do not have enough staff for the school to run as normal, we will partially close school to some year groups. Once again we will prioritise older students who are preparing for examinations. Should either of these situations arise, we will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible.

#### Cancelled Events

We are following Government advice and cancelling all non-essential activities and events.

There is a helpline available to schools that can also be used by parents as follows:-

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

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

I will keep you updated on any developments and thank you for your support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Watson  
Headteacher