



17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the updated Government advice issued by Prime Minister Johnson and the advice published to schools on the approach to managing COVID-19 we would like to update our letter of yesterday to inform you of what the school plans to do in the short term.

I am sorry I cannot give you timescales for how long our measures will last. I am sure you will appreciate we are awaiting Government advice via the DFE and are also unable to predict the number of staff we will have on any given day to maintain the school curriculum. Yesterday's announcements indicates how fast moving the situation is which makes predicting arrangements a challenge.

The latest Government information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

We would like to draw your intention to this guidance in particular, which we ask you to follow:

If you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, do not leave your home for **14 days** from when your symptoms started.

- A high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
- A new, continuous cough – this means you have started coughing repeatedly.
- Do inform the school that you suspect your child is showing symptoms and that **you intend to follow the guidance on self-isolating** - update the school each day following our absence process.
- It advises you should remain in your home. The guidance states you should not go to work, school, or public areas, and you should not use public transport or taxis. You cannot go for a walk.
- Do not allow other children who are still attending school to visit your home.

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

- You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you are staying at home.
- Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you are staying at home.
- Read advice about staying at home.
- If symptoms persist beyond seven days or if you get worse you should contact the NHS's dedicated 111 online coronavirus service.

In School we will do our utmost to ensure these guidelines are followed as far as possible. Should your child develop one of these symptoms during the school day, you will be contacted and asked to collect them, and until the 14 days have expired your child should not return to school. Please self-isolate and follow the absence process as above.

NHS 111 has an online service <https://111.nhs.uk> and the Department for Education also offers a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687 Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday).

From the 18th March until further notice.

The school site will be open as normal and **gates will close at the normal times**, but to reduce pressure on staff and prepare for the day we are moving our time roll call to 9am.



This is because we need to take account of the most up to date staff absence information and make sure we know which children are in school. The dining hall will be open to support the children in a similar manner to when we ran goal setting week and food will be available to purchase.

Assemblies will be cancelled due to the reduced timeframe at the start of the school day. Homework club will be cancelled as will all of our after school clubs, evening events and fixtures. We expect children to leave the site at the end of the day unless they have a detention.

I have asked staff to start sharing work for children self-isolating from the 18th of March, but please do keep your child reading and accessing MyMaths as these revision and support expectations have been in place for some time.

All staff will leave the site by 4pm each day and school reception will close at 3.30. Heads of Year will scale back meetings or may conduct them by telephone. It is fair to say parents will see a reduced level of service by the pastoral team, for reasons I hope you wholly understand. We have taken steps to reduce visitors to the school and would ask parents only to attend, if it is essential.

Cancelled events

Year 11 parents evening is cancelled.

18/3 - Homework club until further notice

25/3 - EPCS Friends Meeting

25/3 - Y12 Geography field trip to London

26/3 - Sorrento Trip awaiting travel company confirmation

30/3 - Y9 Music Show (audience opportunity)

2/4 - Y11 Parents Evening - as per my letter yesterday

22/4 - EPCS Friends Meeting

Again, following the Government's advice currently no overseas trips will take place. Other educational visits will be considered on a case by case basis and for obvious reasons will most likely be postponed. Regretfully at this stage there is no definite or clear guidance offered by the Government regarding insurance claims in respect of payments.

We know many parents will be concerned about the impact the current situation may have on GCSE and A Level exams, the students are due to take in May and June, however there is currently no indication to suggest they won't go ahead as planned. We are in regular communication with Department for Education (DfE) and OFQUAL and will continue to send updates as and when received.

In the event of increased staff absence due to the need for self-isolation, we will review our staffing coverage on a daily basis. In some instances, there may be a need to combine two or more classes together in one of our larger spaces with supervision. We expect the students to support this process and work with staff to ensure learning can continue. In the event that we cannot reasonably support classes we will move to partial closure. Again we will try and give you notice but staff absence will trigger this decision, so as it is in snow days sometimes the notice period can be very short. I hope you will bear with us.

School closure

There has been much discussion over closure of schools and whilst we have no information that indicates this is likely to happen we are taking steps to ensure we are prepared for this eventuality and able to deliver lessons and work via our Google environment and ClassCharts as now. All departments across the school are ensuring that work and resources are planned to enable learning to continue at home in the event of a closure. They will start sharing these from tomorrow for those self-isolating.

We are asking all students to make sure that they have copies of any textbooks that have been issued by the school and that these are taken home daily. Where students are self-isolating we will endeavour to ensure that work is set for them to complete at home if they are well enough to do this. We would ask Destiny students to use the wide range of apps we provide to maintain their revision and knowledge recall in support of their studies.

In the event of a school closure our students will be expected to:

- Take responsibility for their own learning.
- Check into the Google environment and their school ClassCharts account, for notifications. Teachers may use email to provide more detailed instructions and feedback and will try and respond to appropriate questions.
- Spend a minimum of 5 hours a day on lesson activities and tasks set by their teachers.
- Complete all tasks on paper or online as required and meet any deadlines given.
- Engage in any other learning activities their teachers have prepared, including extended tasks.
- Read for a minimum of 20 minutes a day.
- Apply the transferrable skills they have developed and be resilient and resourceful.
- Show us what they can achieve!

We would be grateful if you could ensure as far as you are able that your son/daughter:

- Is able to access the Google environment and his/her school ClassCharts account and email committing to routinely checking these.
- Engages in the lessons and learning opportunities provided by his/her teachers.
- Spends 5 hours learning each day and completes all tasks on time.
- Keeps in touch with his/her teachers.

Thinking about the wider interests of the community in which we live, we would also like to encourage everybody connected to the school to think about our immediate neighbours and those who are most vulnerable. As social distancing measures are introduced, we would all want to make sure that the elderly and isolated people of the local area who live alone are not forgotten. We are a 'village' after all and need to look after our own.

We would like to thank you for all the support you have given us as a school so far and for letting us know promptly of any family circumstances as we manage this challenging and developing situation.

We are noting all that are self-isolating as the Local Authority is requiring information on numbers on a daily basis.

Yours faithfully



Liz Cook
Headteacher