



18th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19 Update

Following this week's announcements by the government, I am writing to update you with respect to our ongoing approach to these issues. The government's position remains unchanged in that all schools are to remain open which we remain committed to. As staff absence levels have increased this week, because colleagues have been instructed to self-isolate, either because they are ill themselves or because someone in their household has become, our resources are being over-stretched.

School Closure for Year 8 & Year 9

The national decision to increase self-isolation periods to 14 days has added to the staffing difficulties that we are experiencing at the moment, along with the need to protect staff with underlying health issues identified by the government. For this reason, we need to ask **Year 8 and Year 9** to stay at home from tomorrow, Thursday 19th March 2020 until at least the end of school week. This will NOT affect your child's attendance figures. I understand the difficulties that will cause some families and for that I can only apologise. The school is in an extremely difficult situation and this decision was taken with a heavy heart.

Students in Year 8 and Year 9 can find work by using a link which is available on our school website in the News section. Work will be provided in all subjects. More work will be added in the coming days. We ask all parents in these cases to urge your child to engage, if possible, with the following online platforms – Hegarty Maths, Seneca Learning, Educake and BBC Bitesize. These are accessible on any device connected to the internet.

We will review this position before the end of the week and consider the following future options:

1. If our staffing levels have improved sufficiently, we will ask both Year 8 & Year 9 to return to school on Monday 23rd March 2020.
2. If our staffing issues have remained at approximately the same level, we may ask one of those year groups to return to school on Monday 23rd March 2020.
3. If our staffing issues have worsened, we may need to ask Year 8 & Year 9 to remain at home and ask other year groups to do likewise.

We will update parents regarding these options as soon as we can. Please check our website and social media for updates regularly. Thank you for your cooperation.

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We Seek the Best



Government Advice

The Government has introduced new guidance on whole household isolation in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

If you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

For anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

The symptoms are:

A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)

A new, continuous cough

The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

IMPORTANT - If you have informed school that your child is off school because they are being 'self-isolated' you MUST keep them off school for 14 days. Please do not send your child back into school – if you do, we will contact you to pick them up.

Once again, I apologise for any inconvenience caused. It is important that we all respect the advice given on this matter. Please look after yourselves and each other.

Yours faithfully



Mr G Evans
Principal