



14 March 2020

COVID-19 (coronavirus) update

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you on the developing situation of the coronavirus and the actions we are taking. All schools have been receiving updates from the Department of Education and we have been following the official advice that this department provides. We are also consulting with Public Health England. Whilst schools in most of Europe have been closed, you will be aware that schools in the UK remain open. Should we be told to shut, I will write you again although I expect you will hear the news at the same time as I do. We are continuing as normal but have had to cancel overseas trips for the foreseeable future.

We have been informed today of a sixth form student who is displaying symptoms that are closely aligned to those suffering from the coronavirus. He was in school on Friday and is now self-isolating for seven days. He may never be confirmed as having COVID-19 as only those in hospital are now being tested. In this situation we are not advised to shut the school so the school will be open as normal on Monday. I thought it best to communicate this information to you.

With regards your own children, most recent guidance is for anyone with a high temperature (37.8 degrees and above) and/or a new continuous cough should stay at home for seven days from the point of displaying the symptoms. You will need to contact the school in the normal way by phoning or using the attendance email. We will authorise any such absence.

As we are planning for a probable school closure at some point over the coming weeks it is important to ensure Year 11 and 13 students are well prepared and able to continue to revise effectively for their exams; this will be a priority for staff. I will write to you later in the week to let you know what will happen with regards setting work and expectations of students completing work. At this stage we intend to continue with the GCSE Information Evening on Tuesday for Year 11 parents and Year 12 Parents' Evening on Thursday but please check emails daily in case these plans change.

I would finally like to reassure you that we will continue to prioritise health and well-being over anything else. We will continue to highlight the need to wash hands regularly and thoroughly and the school will follow all advice from Public Health England. We will do all we can to support students, parents and staff through these unprecedented times.

Yours faithfully

Tim Rand
Headteacher