



Dear Parent or Carer,

I am writing to update you on our response to the national Coronavirus situation. I know that you will be concerned and I would like to reassure you of our plans.

At present we are following nationally agreed advice and we have support from the local authority in managing this issue.

We have used form time and assemblies to reinforce key messages around personal hygiene, hand washing and 'catching, killing and binning' coughs and sneezes.

You can find all you need to know about preventing the spread of the virus and what to do if you think you or your child might be infected here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We understand you will be making attendance decisions according to government advice daily. Pupils and staff should not attend school if they show symptoms of the virus (**new, persistent cough or a high temperature**) and it is important to follow the advice issued by Public Health England. As of today this advice is that anyone displaying these specific symptoms should self-isolate for seven days.

In the meantime, we have taken measures to reduce unnecessary meetings and visitors to school at this time. As such we will postpone parents' evenings other after school activities. I thank you for your support and understanding.

We have also made some changes to assemblies such as only having three/four forms in the hall at any one time and spreading pupils out well. To reduce the flow of traffic at lunch times we are allowing Y7 pupils to come for lunch 20 minutes early and Y8 to have 15 minutes extra at the end of lunch and Y9 are coming for break 10 minutes early. We hope these measures will help to reduce the spread of the virus within school whilst keeping our Y10s and 11s free from any disruption to lessons.

We have a contingency plan should we be required to undertake a full or partial closure. This includes ensuring the continuity of education for all, but especially Year 11. We will maintain lines of communication with parents, carers, pupils and staff via text, our website and social media.

In the event that the decision is taken to close the school we have put in place resource packs and will offer online study. Details of these will be shared with pupils, parents and carers. Parents and carers will be able to contact school via email.

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Executive Principal : Mr P Murden
Headteacher : Mrs A Byrne





We have an exam contingency plan and we are following official guidance from JCQ, OfQual and exam boards. Any decisions about the summer exam schedule will be taken at a national level to ensure fairness for all candidates. At present all planned controlled assessments and practical exams that are scheduled to take place in the coming weeks are planned to take place as normal.

Any school closure will be communicated via the usual means of text and email, supported by social media. We will also provide information on our website and you can use the general email address for all enquires as normal. Please be reassured that all decisions regarding this matter will be taken in the best interest of the health and wellbeing of children and the wider school community.

Our aim over the coming months will be to educate children and reduce anxiety. It is important that we remember that children appear to face only minor symptoms.

We have reassured pupils in assemblies and will continue to reassure them that we are doing everything we can to look after them and help them to focus on learning during this unusual time. So far they have responded brilliantly, so sensibly and maturely-exactly what I have come to know and love about our young people.

I thank you for your ongoing support and wish all of you working in the health sector our heartfelt thanks and best wishes,

Yours faithfully

Mrs Byrne

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