



March 9th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on how we are responding to recent events and the potential disruption in school resulting from the spread of Covid-19, or Coronavirus. As a school, we have been asked to review our contingency measures and I will be writing in due course to let you know how we will manage in the event that there is an enforced school closure. For now, we are very much about continuing with **business as usual**, providing reassurance to our students and keeping our focus on their success and well-being in school.

In light of the work we are doing to put in place robust contingency plans, I have taken the decision to **cancel the Parent Forum** scheduled for Thursday March 12th and we will convene instead on the next planned date in the school calendar. This will enable us to focus our time and efforts on how best to support students in the event of disruption to the running of the school over the coming weeks and months – we all very much hope this will not be needed but it is essential we are well-prepared for all eventualities.

Our **Year 8 Futures Evening** is planned for **Thursday March 19th, 5 – 7p.m.** We look forward to seeing students, parents and carers at that event and again will keep you posted if plans change.

Your Assistance: Contact Details

It is absolutely vital that we have up to date contact details for you on our school database and that we can contact you both via ParentMail and via our SimsAPP. If the details we hold are not correct or if you have not signed up to both ParentMail and our SimsAPP, please contact School Reception on 0121 453 1778 as a matter of priority this week.

Hygiene

As you will no doubt be aware for the news, the current advice is that the best measures to reduce the risk of infection are to encourage regular, thorough handwashing. We have been trying to source additional supplies of hand sanitiser in school but as you know, there is now a national shortage. Your child is welcome to bring a personal supply into school to be used as appropriate. We have also worked with our cleaning provider to upgrade the materials used to clean all contact and touchpoints in school to minimise the risk of transmission.

Self-Isolation

Public Health England are providing regular information and updates regarding how you should respond if you are concerned you have been exposed to risk of Covid-19 infection. In the event you are directly affected, please contact school to keep us updated.

Community Support

One of the strengths of our Colmers Community is the level of support we give to one another, especially in times of difficulty. During these worrying times, it is especially important that we look out for one another and consider how we can best support students, families and colleagues experiencing particular challenges. I will do my best to keep you appraised of developments over the coming days and weeks and trust that together, we will find the most positive route possible through the uncertainty and challenges ahead of us.

Best wishes,

Emma Leaman
Headteacher