



March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Keeping You Updated

The worldwide outbreak of Covid-19 is resulting in changes to how organisations operate. As a school we will continue to follow the guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education. Please keep a close eye on our website and social media in the event we have updated information to share with you.

### Risk Management

In order to reduce the risk of virus transmission within our community, I have taken the decision to keep meetings and events in school to a minimum. As a consequence, the planned Year 8 Futures Evening on Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> will not take place. Instead, the information regarding Year 9 Futures curriculum choices will be sent home to you and we will also distribute information via the school portal in the form of powerpoint and recorded presentations to help you during the process.

Where possible, planned meetings will take place via phone call instead of face to face during this period and we may cancel trips and visits at short notice. Updates will be provided on our website, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

### School Attendance

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection. Last week, the government issued advice regarding self-isolation: students should not come into school if they show symptoms either of

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

Anyone displaying these symptoms should not leave their home for 7 days from when symptoms start.

In the event your child needs to self-isolate, please report their absence as you would normally do by ringing school. **Where there are no health concerns, please continue to send your child into school as normal.** I appreciate it is a worrying time for many but we do need to make sure that children continue to attend and receive the education they are entitled to.

### Education Continuity

If at any time we as a school are required to close it is imperative that our students are supported to continue with their education at home. Later this week I will write to confirm how we will be providing work for students under such circumstances. To help us, we are asking all students to confirm what IT access they have at home so we can cater for those without access to the internet.

We have asked all students who have a smartphone to download our school student SIMSApp to assist with communication. As requested last when I wrote to you last week, I would be grateful if all parents and carers could ensure you have the SIMSApp operating for ease of communication. Do please contact main reception if you require any assistance.



### **GCSE and A'Level Exam Preparation**

As I am sure you understand and expect, exam preparation for our Year 11 and Year 13 students remains a priority for us. We know that Ofqual and exam boards are working to ensure the exam season is not interrupted. Our role as a school, with the help of student's families, will be to prepare students for exams in the best possible way. Students should continue to revise and practise past paper questions and focus on improving areas of weakness. In the event of closure, a huge amount of material will be made available through our School Portal and we will also be providing packs of work for students to ensure they have revision materials to hand.

### **Support for students and families**

I appreciate how important school support is for our students, especially if individuals or families are facing complex challenges. We will be doing everything we can during any disruption to maintain high levels of support, especially for our most vulnerable young people. We are awaiting guidance on provision of Free School Meals during any period of disruption and will keep you informed. I hope that as a wider community, we will remain focused on the ways we can help one another during times of such uncertainty.

It may be that education is not interrupted over the coming weeks and we are able to operate as normal for the rest of the academic year. However, contingency plans are always important, which is why I am sending this information to you now. I will continue to keep you updated as new information and guidance is received.

Best wishes,

Emma Leaman  
Headteacher