

## Re: Coronavirus update

Dear Parents/Guardians

I thought that I would take this opportunity to update you all on the measures that the school is currently putting in place to address the COVID-19 virus.

Firstly, I believe it is important to state that all decisions we have made over these last weeks have been in full accordance with Government and Public Health England guidelines. As Headteacher, I am getting daily briefings from the Department of Education and KCC, and will continue to make the very best decisions that I can, in line with the direction that these institutions provide me with.

### **Hygiene**

Our onsite caretaking team have enhanced their cleaning and disinfecting programme in recent weeks and, as a school, we have also taken extra measures to educate pupils on good personal hygiene and increasing our use of antibacterial wipes and hand-sanitisers, particularly in relation to common surfaces, such as laptops/banisters/tables etc, and for visitors to the school. Please support us by encouraging your own child(ren) to increase their frequency of handwashing both at home and at school.

### **Limiting Large Gatherings**

This, in a school of our size, is clearly a challenge, however we have taken the following steps to restrict the number of large gatherings across the school: -

- Cancelling whole school assemblies for the foreseeable future.
- Postponing Parents Evenings until further notice; both Year 10 (originally scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> March) as well as Year 7 (originally scheduled for Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March).

### **School Trips**

We are currently risk assessing all planned off site activities which are due to happen this side of Easter. We will keep respective students, groups and parents informed of any decisions made regarding cancellations of these activities.

### **In the event of a School Closure**

At this moment in time, the advice from both central government and KCC, is to keep schools open wherever possible. Like you, we are closely monitoring the news each day for the latest updates and directives and will act accordingly. Just so that you are aware, we are putting together a comprehensive 'Home Study' plan to support the progress of our pupils remotely, should the school be forced to close. If this does become the reality, I will write to you in greater detail as to how this will work in practice. In the meantime, please check that your child has the login for Show My Homework and an active school email address; please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Key Stage office if you require this information.

### **Examinations**

We are still awaiting definitive guidance in respect of how examinations will be managed in the



event that there is widespread disruption to schools and education settings. We are determined to provide the very best support we can to those pupils who are in the examination years and I will keep students and parents fully updated with any developments in this area. Students are to continue to do their very best and continue to act on staff advice.

### **Some Key Actions that you can take as parents**

Yesterday, the Government introduced new guidance on whole household isolation in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak; I would be most grateful if you could fully adhere to this guidance please in order to protect the health and wellbeing of the wider school community:

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for at least 7 days from when your symptoms started or until you are well.
- 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>

**We are advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from Coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures. This information can be found on the following link:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>



St. John's Catholic  
Comprehensive School

We will continue to monitor and revise our plans on a daily basis in response to government and Public Health England advice. Many thanks as always for your ongoing co-operation, understanding and support as we address this situation, and for working with us to best safeguard the well-being of our children and staff.

Yours sincerely

Matt Barron  
Headteacher

Excellence for All

Service to Others

Inspired by Christ

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