

Monday 16 March

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID 19 update

You may well have read or heard the updated guidance from the government at the end of last week which remains in place as of this morning:

- **staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal**
- **if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home.** You can call 111 or use <https://111.nhs.uk/> for further guidance once at home.
- clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products
- supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues
- unless you have been directly advised to close by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team, we recommend all education settings remain open

Should a student or member of staff develop symptoms while on site we will make arrangements for them to go home following the guidance for educational settings. We will then advise them to follow the staying at home guidance.

The full guidance for staying at home can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The full guidance for educational settings can be access here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

We will endeavour to operate the school as normal. Where your children do need to be off school for the above reasons, please ensure that you inform the school of the circumstances (using the attendance line, as normal) so that we are aware.

Trips, fixtures, visits and events

The school will remain open until we are informed otherwise and we continue to monitor developments closely. We are reviewing all school trips, fixtures and visits and have taken the decision to cancel all events for Term 4. The CST Concert (see below) and the Dance Festival in Weston on Thursday evening have both been cancelled. Should you have questions about a forthcoming trip, please contact mollerj@skdrive.org.

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We will continue to collect progress data as normal. However, in the event of school closure, the distribution of this information to students and parents/carers will be delayed.

CST Concert update - Thursday 19 March 2020

In light of the latest statements from the Government and increasing pressure on staff members this week, we have made the decision to postpone the CST concert scheduled for this Thursday 19th March 2020 at Bristol Cathedral. We will look to reschedule the concert for later in the year.

I would like to pass on my thanks to staff who are working under difficult and challenging circumstances at the moment and to parents and carers for your understanding and support. I know that staff, parents and carers, grandparents and children were all looking forward to the event which we know would have been a real highlight of the year. However, going ahead with the concert brings different generations together and this is contrary to government advice. The event is made even more challenging as a number of staff or children may be absent due to self isolation.

Planning and Preparation

We are working very hard, with other schools in the Trust, to prepare for any potential situation. Clearly this includes the strong possibility of partial or full school closure. In these circumstances we will be sharing information and guidance to students and parents/carers and to maintain continuity of education. This will rely on the use of technology to support learning to a significant extent along with workbooks and longer project pieces of work for students to complete. We would ask those students with public examinations this summer to do all they can to ensure they have all necessary materials at home. We ask for parents/carers to do all they can to ensure that students have all they need to continue their learning at home. We are talking with all students about these potential arrangements this week.

We have been in communication with the Examination Boards and have received reassurances that students should not be disadvantaged because of difficulties arising from the impact of the outbreak. We expect clear advice to be given to all schools and we would update students and families as appropriate.

We encourage parents/carers to provide their child/children with hand sanitiser (if you are able to) to reduce the spread of the virus and to reinforce the messages and guidance on washing their hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds during break and lunch time. If your child takes public transport, please encourage your child to wash their hands when they arrive at school.

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents/carers and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

We believe we are as prepared as possible should the government direct schools to respond to new advice. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us through the usual school@skdrive.org, your child's tutor or Head of House.

We continue to monitor developments closely each day and will keep everyone updated through our website, social media and direct communication.

Yours sincerely





Justin Humphreys
Headteacher

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