

Dear Parents,

## Coronavirus Update

Over the coming weeks or months we cannot predict the course of action that the Government will ask schools to take. As I said in my earlier letter last week, we take our directive from the Local Authority Public Health team and the Department For Education. The daily information we get as a school is very much the same as that in the public domain. This emphasises: frequent hand washing, sneezing into a tissue and disposing of it and self-isolating if you have flu-like symptoms. These keep you safe and makes it safer for your friends and family.

The advice has been amended this week to say anyone who develops symptoms such as a new continuous cough or a temperature should self-isolate for seven days. Students who have these conditions or have them in the household should not come to school. Any students self-isolating should remain indoors and complete work where possible. Please inform us via email: [attendance@sdcc.net](mailto:attendance@sdcc.net)

There are a range of options that we may need to adopt over the next few months:

- The school remains open, and functions as normal
- Staff absence may be high due to illness or looking after family members - if we need to operate on a skeleton staff, classes may need to be structured in a different way.
- A partial closure – certain year groups may be sent home leaving those that we need to prioritise in school (e.g. year 11 and 13 for examination reasons, or year 7 due to their age)
- We are directed to close completely

This may change on a daily basis, therefore, we will ensure that we communicate with you using our various methods (email, text, twitter, school website).

Our school website now has a page specifically for this period of time. There are 3 sections:

1. **COVID19 Student Work** – this outlines the work that we expect students to complete if they are off school due to self-isolation or school closure. It includes access on online learning platforms students are familiar with (Hegarty Maths, Tassomai Science etc) and that students should continue to complete their **reading** and **self-quizzing homework** using the Knowledge Organiser. Teachers are also

setting up '**Google Classrooms**' to post work for students to access daily, after we are instructed to close.

For year 11 and 13 students who have been working so hard towards their GCSEs, A levels and BTEC, lessons and resources will be uploaded to Google Classroom, with some lessons being delivered live via the platform. Students are advised to follow their usual timetable. In the event of an extended closure additional work and communication will be provided.

2. **COVID19 Student Welfare** – this section gives advice to parents or students should they be concerned about a child's welfare. There is a team of staff that will provide emergency advice and support.
3. **COVID19 Staff Welfare** – Information for staff only

Students will be having an assembly this week to go through these with them.

We are particularly concerned that almost half of our students are entitled to '**Free School Meals**', and therefore are looking to support in the following ways during a full or partial closure:

1. Ensuring that we donate as a school to the local food bank (if you would like to contribute, please pass donations into school reception)
2. We will provide food bank vouchers to those families that are in most need. Please contact Mrs Rachel Miller ([rmiller@sdcc.net](mailto:rmiller@sdcc.net)) if you require any support from the food bank.
3. We are looking into the possibility of offering a 'grab and go' service from outside the school canteen. Please email [info@sdcc.net](mailto:info@sdcc.net) and place in the subject heading '**grab and go**' if you think this will be a service that you may use. Please let us know so that we can see if this is a viable option and plan appropriately. We will let you know if we are able to operate this service.

I am sure that you appreciate that this is a very difficult time for all of us and we will try to support our community as best we can to limit the impact on our students. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with us if you have any concerns at all.

Kind regards



Anita Frier  
Executive Principal