

16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: All Years - Update on COVID-19**

We wanted to update you in relation to the COVID-19 phase being moved from the 'Containment' to the 'Delay' phase by the UK Government and Public Health England (PHE) on Thursday.

Following the amendment to the Government's approach to the handling of the pandemic, new guidance has been issued to address anyone that becomes unwell. The guidance is:

- *Stay at home for 7 days (self-isolate) if you have either:*
  - *a high temperature*
  - *a new continuous cough*

<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>

This means if your child has symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, they must stay at home and not leave the house for 7 days from when their symptoms started.

Students who arrive at school but are visibly unwell with these symptoms, will be sent home and asked to stay away for 7 days in accordance with the guidance issued. We would also ask parents who are exhibiting the above symptoms to refrain from coming into school for the same timeframe.

We expect this new advice to mean significant staff absence. We have plans in place to ensure classes are covered and as always, we will strive to deliver the best teaching and learning that we can given the circumstances. However, with potential high staff absence, this will not always be easy and we may have to resort to combined classes or the partial closure of the school, prioritising our GCSE and A level students as stated in our letter on 9<sup>th</sup> March. We will keep you updated.

All future events are under consideration and decisions about how they go ahead, if at all will be made in accordance with advice at that time. All overseas trips have been cancelled this side of Easter and we will review other trips and external activities as we receive more information from the government.

We know many parents will be concerned about the impact the current situation may have on GCSE and A Level exams the students are due to take in May and June but there is currently no indication to suggest they won't go ahead as planned. We are in regular communication with Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE) and will continue to send updates as and when received.

The school will remain open unless we are instructed to close by either Public Health England (PHE) or the Department of Education (DfE). If we were to close, we have drawn up plans to provide work for students via Frog. We will use email to communicate with you during any closure.

We will write again with a further update once more information is available.

Thank you for your on-going support and understanding during this unprecedented period. We will continue to prioritise the health and welfare of our students and our staff whilst being mindful of our responsibility to maintaining education provision as best as we can.

Yours sincerely

*A Kennedy* *Katie Pearce*

Anne Kennedy and Katie Pearce  
Co-Headteachers