

17th March 2020

Dear Parents,

The current situation is changing quickly and this is an update about school and our plans.

It is important to remember that healthy young people appear to be able to fight off the virus and recover within a few days. This is one of the reasons that the government has decided to keep schools open.

However, we have advised staff who are in high risk groups to stay at home and I suggest the same for any pupils in the high risk groups. Due to the reduction in staff it may become necessary to ask some year groups to stay at home. It also now seems inevitable that at some point we will have to close completely. We will contact you by email and will post information on Facebook and our website. Please keep monitoring these and checking for updates.

Whilst we are still open we wish to reduce any risk so have decided to cancel all parents' evenings and meetings. We will post out Year 9 monitoring to help you and your child decide their options.

A number of pupils were sent home yesterday as they told us they had a cough. We need to remind you that if that is the case they should self-isolate for 7 days. This means they have to stay at home. If we see children out and about then this is not self-isolation and will be coded as unauthorised. Please impress on pupils the seriousness of the situation. We want as many pupils as possible to continue their education in school for as long as possible.

We are aware that students in Year 11 and sixth form are preparing for exams and at the current time exams are still timetabled to take place. They and their parents will be understandably concerned and we want to reassure you that we will do all we can to limit the effect on them. Mr Coyle has sent a letter to explain how we intend to ensure that all pupils learning will be able to continue.

When it comes closure may be for an extended period of time. This will be difficult for everyone. We will be relying on parents to make sure their children are accessing the work. It is important that our young people develop a routine at home and keep themselves busy.

As I am in a high risk group I have taken the difficult decision to work from home, I will still be kept very busy and will be in constant contact. In my absence Mr Coyle will be running the school day to day. If you need to contact me, please contact school and Mrs Rowlands will arrange for a phone call rather than a meeting. I want to thank the staff for continuing to work in anxious times. They, as always, are teaching your children with professionalism, dedication and with smiles on their faces.

I have included the most up to date advice from the government. Please remind all your family to follow the advice.

Thank you for your continued support. We will stay in contact with you. Please keep the whole school community in your prayers over the coming days and weeks.

Mrs H Seddon

Headteacher

The advice for anyone in any setting is to follow these main guidelines.

1. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of a new continuous cough and/or high temperature. If you have these symptoms, however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, contact [NHS 111 online](#). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.
2. Wash your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and hot water, particularly after coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose, or after being in public areas where other people are doing so. Use hand sanitiser if that's all you have access to.
3. To reduce the spread of germs when you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or your sleeve (not your hands) if you don't have a tissue, and throw the tissue away immediately. Then wash your hands or use a hand sanitising gel.
4. Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces using your regular cleaning products to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.