



16 March 2020

Dear Parents

RE: Coronavirus Update

Further to my letter sent this morning, I wanted to clarify the specific events that have been cancelled as a precautionary measure. The events that will not be taking place are listed below:

- Wednesday 18th March – Higher Education evening for parents of students in year 12
- Wednesday 25th March – North Somerset Teaching Alliance School Experience Day for visiting staff
- Thursday 26th March - Study Skills events for parents of year 10
- Thursday 1st April – Recital Evening
- Thursday 2nd April - Year 7 Transition Trip to Harry Potter World.

Parents of year 9 students are aware that vaccinations are planned for the year group on Thursday 19th March. Having today made contact with the immunisation team who, in turn, are following advice from Public Health England, these are still planning to happen. Public Health England will continue to advise and if the guidance changes parents will be informed.

In addition:

- all residential trips are cancelled which includes the sixth form trips to Berlin and the USA and the Duke of Edinburgh Silver qualifying expedition. The Erasmus visit to Lithuania and the visit of the Turkish school to Nailsea has also been cancelled. We are working with our insurers and the companies to look at ways that the costs incurred can be recouped. Parents will continue to be kept updated.
- all sporting fixtures are cancelled
- all peripatetic music lessons will be cancelled from Tuesday 17th March.
- External visitors to the school will be cancelled and this may involve some disruption to the upcoming ABSolute session on 26th March. Further details will follow.
- All external lets through the Link, from tonight, have been cancelled (until 20th April)
- A simplified school menu will be available from Thursday 19th March. Hot food will be available but this will be different to the offer currently published.

I am aware that the concern of many parents will continue to be related to external exams (including those in practical subjects that have had dates chosen by the school). At present we are assuming these will be going ahead and further discussion will take place as needed.

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There are and will continue to be students that are taking the precaution, in line with government advice, to self-isolate. On these occasions sending individual work home to students on a 1-1 personalised level will be challenging, especially if there are members of staff that are also self-isolating. Resources, work and revision for whole groups will continue to be set by individual teachers using both Show My Homework and through Office 365. Teachers will be available on email (a list of addresses are available on the website) to answer any queries or concerns regarding tasks if required.

For those students that are self-isolating, as a reminder the school is a subscriber to these other online platforms:

- Hegarty Maths
- GCSE pod
- Language Nut
- Seneca

Students should be aware of log in details, but again do contact staff if there is an issue. Students can continue to work independently on the platforms that are available. In addition, students can spend time reviewing and revisiting learning already completed this year and reading around the subjects through fiction and non-fiction texts of their choice.

The school will only close where there is direct guidance from Public Health England and/or where there are insufficient numbers of staff available to safely deliver an education to students. In this situation the school will provide students in all year groups with online materials to facilitate distance learning and endeavour to provide paper based materials for those students who we are aware do not have access to either a mobile device and/or internet. During any period of closure the school will continue to communicate with families on a regular basis to provide updates on scheduled reopening.

As I am sure you can appreciate this is an unprecedented and ever changing situation. Please be assured that as and when updates arrive and further action is required, I will respond to ensure that the well-being of staff and students is the priority.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Dee Elliott
Head teacher