

13th March 2020

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) update – 13th March 2020

Symptoms

In the light of the most recent government advice, this is to clarify that if your child develops symptoms, *however mild*, of possible Covid19, either:

- a new continuous cough **and/or**
- a high temperature (above 37.8)

they will need to self-isolate for 7 days from when the symptoms first start and not return to school until the end of this period.

Please note:

1. COVID-19 is likely to be a very mild infection in most children
2. A high temperature is anything persistently over 37.8°C. If the temperature is above this figure take it again 4 hours later. If still high keep your child at home.
3. A Coronavirus cough is persistent and dry. If your child coughs continuously for several hours, keep your child at home.

The government advice can be found using this link:

<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>

We understand that this may not be easy, but it is important that we follow the advice to ensure that we are not spreading the virus, and to ensure we keep those who are vulnerable safe.

School events and fixtures for the week ahead

As stated in yesterday's letter, within the scope of current government guidance we have made the following decisions regarding school events:

1. *Internal events that only involve pupils, parents and staff*
These will continue as planned unless advice is changed. Parent attendance is restricted to immediate pupil household and we advise against people with underlying health conditions attending.
2. *Events with large audiences that are inside such as plays and concerts*
These will be postponed, although there may be a possibility for a pupil only performance. New dates will be circulated once the Coronavirus situation becomes clearer.

3. *Sports fixtures*

These will continue as they take place outside so infection is less likely. Spectators will be limited to immediate pupil household and we advise against people with underlying health conditions attending. We may move to 'closed door' fixtures as the situation develops.

4. *Other events*

No firm decision has been made about other events such as day trips and occasions planned for the last week of term. Further information will be sent out about these in due course.

Following these principles, we are now able to give some greater clarity regarding some of the school events scheduled for the remainder of this term.

Junior Forms Production – sadly this drama production is postponed and will hopefully be re-scheduled for next term. This is a huge disappointment to pupils and staff and their understanding and cooperation in light of these events is much appreciated.

Sports fixtures – currently all calendared sports fixtures will go ahead as planned. Measures continue to be in place for visiting teams and their spectators. However, as an added precaution and mindful of social distancing with those from outside the immediate Dean Close community, no indoor match teas will be provided for teams or spectators. Sorry.

ABRSM examinations – currently we expect these examinations to be undertaken as planned, since we have not heard otherwise from the ABRSM board.

School trips – currently those scheduled for the week ahead will take place, although naturally each will be assessed, case by case, on the risk posed in their various locations.

Thank you again for your understanding in these decisions. The school will get in touch with parents again should these plans need to change and please do make contact with the school if you have any queries.

With kind regards,



Mr P Moss
Headmaster

