



12th March 2020

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Dear Parents/Guardians

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) update – 12th March 2020

The situation regarding COVID-19 remains very fluid with government advice changing daily. Public Health England (PHE) and government plans are still in the initial containment phase although it is more than likely that the UK will move to the delay phase soon. The Department for Education is currently advising all schools to remain open and to consult PHE if a Coronavirus case is suspected.

At school we are continuing to encourage good personal hygiene and follow the containment measures outlined in the previous update. Despite the panic buying experienced by many supermarkets, please be assured that we have plenty of soap, hand sanitizer and of course loo rolls!

Whilst we cannot predict what will happen over the next few weeks it would be advisable for all pupils to do the following:

1. Check that all their academic books and notes are in order and that they have easy access to all the learning materials they might need in case of a school closure or a need for self-isolation.
2. Ensure that the school has the correct contact details for them and their parents including email addresses and mobile phone numbers.
3. Make sure that they have access to an internet enabled device at home through which they can receive distance learning.

The current government advice about COVID-19 and travel restrictions can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Cont/.



Ofqual, the organisation that oversees all GCSE and A level exams, is in consultation with all the main exam boards to develop contingency plans in case the exams have to be postponed or arrangements changed. We will keep you informed of any decisions they make but you can look at this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-statement-on-coronavirus>.

Please see notices for overseas pupils and school events, attached.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bradley Salisbury". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bradley Salisbury
Headmaster

Overseas pupils

The Coronavirus outbreak is having a disproportionate effect on our overseas community and many pupils are particularly concerned about the Easter holiday. With the rapidly changing situation across the world it is very difficult to advise, however, we ask parents to bear the following points in mind:

1. The approach of every country is different as are the rules about travel and quarantine isolation. Parents who want their children to travel home at Easter need to keep up to date with in-country advice and check the UK government website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
2. UK advice is likely to be significantly different at the end of the Easter holiday (20th April). Flights might be cancelled from some or all other countries and self-isolation requirements might be very different to what they are now. It is vital that exam candidates in particular leave enough time to return to the UK and fulfil isolation requirements before their first exam.
3. **The Dean Close Foundation is looking to provide accommodation at school for those full boarders who are unable to travel home or stay with guardians. The cost of this will be in the region of £500 per week to include food, supervision and some activities. This is cost price only and we hope to enable continuity of education for those unable to return home.**
If you are interested in this provision could you please email jadavis@deanclose.org.uk by 9.00am (BST) on Tuesday 17th March 2020.
4. We are aware of a range of other courses and providers for pupils who are unable to travel home and don't wish to remain at school. Please email the above address if you would like further details
5. A number of parents have requested that their children be allowed to leave school early for the Easter holiday to ensure that they get home. Given the rapidly changing situation we are **happy to give permission** for this as long as travel details are shared in the normal way
6. We are investigating the possibility of providing isolation facilities for pupils returning to the UK from their home country and who have no other quarantine alternative. Spaces are likely to be limited and priority will be given to GCSE and A level candidates. Further information will be sent out during the holiday if this facility is needed.



Events

As is normal at the end of term there are many events in the school calendar. Within the scope of current government guidance we have made the following decisions:

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 calms down

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.

We are caught in a rapidly changing situation, and circumstances may well be different even by the time you read this update. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can as a Foundation to stay abreast of developments and are acting within official guidance.

Thank you once again for your support at this difficult time and please be assured that all the decisions we make have the welfare of our pupils at their centre.

