



18th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have decided that we need to extend our partial closure tomorrow, Thursday 19th March, to include years 8, 9 and 10. We will remain open tomorrow for all other year groups (years 7, 11, 12 and 13). We have made this decision, with regret, on the grounds of health and safety, due to the growing numbers of staff who are absent. There will be a daily update on the website and we will also text parents and carers.

If your child is self-isolating, you only need to contact us about this on the FIRST day of absence, not on subsequent days. However, if they are ill or absent for other reasons, please continue to inform us in the normal way.

If your child is either in year 8, 9, 10 or self-isolating in other year groups, we will ensure that work is made available via ClassCharts. Thank you for following this guidance, rather than contacting us about individual students, as we do not have the resources to maintain classes in school as well as provide individualised work for those at home.

Students in years 11 and 13 are advised to collect books and portfolios from their teachers tomorrow, so that they have them with them in case of any closure affecting them in days to come.

The following advice still applies from my previous letter:

Advice from Public Health England is very clear to you as parents/carers and to us in schools if self-isolation is required:

- Anyone with symptoms should stay at home for at least 7 days
- If you live with other people, the whole household should stay at home for at least 14 days, to avoid spreading the infection outside the home
- After 14 days, anyone you live with who does not have symptoms can return to their normal routine
- But, if anyone in your home gets symptoms, they should stay at home for 7 days from the day their symptoms start. Even if it means they're at home for longer than 14 days

If your child or anyone in the household has a new, continuous cough and / or fever, please keep them at home and follow the self-isolation advice, more of which can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

You may wish to look at the following advice about wellbeing during self isolation:

https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak?fbclid=IwAR10Q7Fv9Vd6Xu6Qw8W2-i4XNRbGi6_PzdXQIxADXYevo1Lk_qOz5qCnNjk

We are receiving a very high volume of calls in schools about the Coronavirus and I am grateful for your patience with all members of staff who are working incredibly hard in challenging circumstances. Please can I also ask that at this point that parents/carers do not contact us and offer advice or views.



The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

These are trying times and I realise the additional burdens these closures impose on families. Thank you for your continued support and, as the situation changes, we will write with further updates.

Kind regards

Yours faithfully

Fergus Stewart
Headteacher