



12th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus Update

I thought that I should write to you about Coronavirus and how it might affect life at the high school.

For the time being our main concern is to follow the medical advice with which we are all familiar: to wash hands frequently and thoroughly and to be aware of surfaces where the virus could be acquired. The school cleaners are now committing extra time to their work, paying particular attention to surfaces in the busiest parts of their areas.

We have to accept, however, that these efforts may not be sufficient; we have to prepare for the possibility that a student or a member of staff is confirmed, after testing, to have caught the virus. I want you to know how we would respond should this happen.

The first thing to say is that what we do is being laid down by the government. (It is all available online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19> should you wish to study it for yourself.) Whereas I am able, in consultation with the Chair of Governors, to close the school in the face of an emergency caused, for example, by extreme weather, I am unable to do so if we have a confirmed case of Coronavirus. That decision would, should it come to it, be made by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team. They will hear of any positive test results, assess the situation at the school and advise on any action that should be taken.

In such a situation rumours can easily spread and multiply. It is important that you know that there is a process which, should we have a positive result, automatically involves local experts.

If we do have to close we shall implement the plans we are making to provide remote learning. In outline this will involve work being set through the homework section of Epraise. Although some compromises will be inevitable, we shall aim to shadow the normal timetable and curriculum as closely as possible. If this does become necessary, I shall write to you again about what we intend to provide and what we expect from each of our students in return.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Waters