

Dear Parents/Carers,

Further to the many updates we are sending out, I would like to take this opportunity to write to you all about the importance of taking COVID-19 seriously.

I am both concerned and alarmed to learn that a number of our students have been seen, congregating in the community and generally socialising. The schools have been closed in an effort to minimise the spread of the virus, but this won't happen if our younger people continue to go out and meet each other. I cannot stress enough, the importance of STAYING HOME has been driven by both the Prime Minister and The Secretary of State for Education. The message is abundantly clear, stay home and keep safe! Please support this, only together can we make a difference.

We are hearing more and more information in the news, and I was saddened to hear of an 18-year-old, with no underlying conditions, dying as a result of contracting the virus. I want our school and local community safe and we all need to be reminded of the severity of this virus.

A reminder please:

- We all need to be washing their hands regularly because the virus remains active on other materials
- Try and encourage some exercise, preferably at home, or in the garden or at a safe distance from others. The body coach is a 30-minute session that can be accessed online daily at 9am.
- It is vital that pupils do some work from home, there are a variety of resources online both on our website and the regular updates for each of our key stages. In an effort to keep them on track, we are aiming to contact all of our pupils on a regular basis. Staff will want work sent back to them so there is an expectation that students will do it and not fall behind

Evidence from our schools today shows us that the vast majority of our pupils are at home OR SHOULD BE. School remains open though to the parents of key workers and vulnerable pupils with a skeleton group of staff.

In the meantime, we are running a skeleton childcare provision for children of key workers and some identified vulnerable pupils. We will not have the staff or capacity to teach large numbers in what will be a wide range of pupils from Year 7 to 11. I will be rotating my staff (those not affected by being in a vulnerable group themselves) who will continue working through the crisis and potentially putting themselves at risk of picking up infection.

This is a serious situation - this childcare provision is not being provided for financial support, it is to provide essential childcare for those who work in front line roles. It is not about some parents being lucky and some not. It is imperative that those key workers needing childcare only use the provision when it is essential, and not just because it is there. We need to minimise the number of pupils in school as far as possible - if there is someone who can provide alternative childcare for these families on certain days, then this should be

arranged. For those parents identified as key workers whose children will be in school, it goes without saying that if anyone in the household shows new symptoms, then the whole household should self-isolate in line with the guidance.

I can only wish you all the very best of luck and hope that no-one is too adversely affected by the ongoing crisis. We will still be here and ready to support you all when we re-open.

Yours faithfully

Mrs S Bridger
Head teacher