



17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to update you on our plans to support students in the light of the current news about coronavirus. The school is fully open but we know that you will have questions that this email will hopefully answer. Please do contact us if you have any other questions.

The best place to visit for advice and guidance on Covid-19 is <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>. This is being updated on a regular basis and provides Public Health England and Department for Health and Social Care advice. There is a link to this page from our website.

Is the school open?

Yes - The government has advised that there is no reason for schools to be shut so we are fully open for all years. In the event that this situation changes then we will update you.

What if my child feels ill? Should they come to school?

Please follow the NHS advice. Currently this is that you should not send children in if they have a high temperature or a new continuous cough. Under new government guidance issued on 16 March they should stay at home for 14 days. If any other students at Denton Community College live in the same house they should also self-isolate for 14 days. Please note that even if the symptoms dissipate, the 14 day self-isolation period must be completed before you consider allowing your child to return to school.

Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response> for up-to-date guidance.

In the event of an absence please ring College and inform us by 8.30am. State the nature of the absence and their symptoms. If they are self-isolating please tell us this on the starting date of the self-isolation. When a student is self-isolating, in accordance with latest information and advice from Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England, we will record the absence as unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances in the attendance register. Code Y (Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances) will be used in this instance, which will ensure the absence will not be reflected in their attendance record. There is then no need to ring each day unless they need to stay off longer than the expected 14 day self-isolation period.

Are School trips taking place?

On 12 March the government advised schools that students under 18 should not travel abroad. As a result we have cancelled all foreign trips this academic year. We are seeking further guidance on the next steps we need to take as a school. We will contact parents of children on these trips directly when we have this information.

We have also taken the decision to cancel or postpone all sporting fixtures. Although there is no national guidance on this we have done this to reduce the risk to students. Other trips are being reviewed on an individual basis and we will inform you if they are not going ahead.

Clearly any student who has any potential symptoms should not attend a trip as they will be self-isolating. Students on any trip should take normal precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

What about Parents' Evening & Work Experience?

Year 10 Parents' Evening is calendared to take place on Thursday 26th March. This event constitutes 'non-essential' social contact and will therefore be postponed. An alternative date will be calendared for later this academic year or early in the next dependant on advice from the government. In addition Year 10 Work Experience will also be postponed in response to current advice. This would be classed as an unnecessary visit which would add additional risk and pressure to our placement providers.

How will work be provided if the school is closed to some or all years?

We hope that we do not need to close but if we were closed to some or all years then we have plans in place to set work using the College website and Google Classroom. We will provide detailed information before any full or partial closure. It would, however, be useful for you to check with your child that they can access Google Classroom and their email account. If there are any problems please let us know.

What about the GCSE exams in the summer?

Please reassure your child that currently there are no plans to change the dates of the exams. Students should continue to work hard to prepare for their exams. If there are any changes we will update students and parents. It is important to remember that any decision about examinations will be a national decision and that we are in the same position as all schools.

Are parents able to come into school to meet with staff?

We are keen to continue to engage with parents but in the weeks up to Easter we ask that communications take place on the telephone or through email. Telephone meetings can be arranged in the normal way.

Should my child be worried?

No – We would like to reassure students that the risk to them is minimal and for most children any symptoms will be mild. They can help others by practising good hygiene and thinking about how to protect elderly relatives and other vulnerable groups. There is a lot of helpful information on this on the websites above.

Thank you for your support and understanding. We are confident that we have taken a proportionate approach to the current situation that protects our community without negatively affecting our students' education. Staff and students are working hard together and we are grateful for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mr G Rule



(Headteacher)