



The Winstanley School

Widening Horizons | Enabling Excellence

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17th March 2020

Dear parent/carer,

Following from my letter last week, I felt I needed to write to you again to keep you up to date with our ongoing plans for dealing with the challenges presented by the spread of the coronavirus. The first of our Shine Values is Supporting Others and I believe that at this challenging time for our community it is more important than ever that we support each other. We want to play a significant part in supporting our community by remaining open where possible and providing your child(ren) with a safe place to learn. Thank you so much for all your support so far.

Student illness

- Please make sure you check your child prior to them leaving for school and if they have a persistent cough or fever, they and the rest of the household should self-isolate for 14 days
- This also means that if anyone else in your household has displayed symptoms, then you need to keep your child off school for 14 days from the first day of the person becoming sick
- Further information can be found following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

- Please be aware that we have no medical staff on site so we will have to send students home who have either of these symptoms
- Please make sure that we have got an up to date phone number and email address and that you are contactable during the school day; even better if you use our new app WEDUC

Planning for significant levels of staff absence due to Covid-19

- **At present the government guidance is that schools should stay open**
- The latest guidance on self-isolating has the potential to increase staff absence to a level where it is unsafe to be open for all year groups
- We have stated that under these circumstances we will keep Year 11 and Year 7 in school first and then work through the other years on a rolling programme
- If staff absence is too high to have the full school, we will send Year 10 home first, followed by Year 9 and then Year 8

Continuing to educate the children of essential workers (health care workers, emergency services and food provision)

- We want to support the community to make sure that essential workers do not have to stay at home to look after their children and can work as normal
- If you are an essential worker and want to send your child into school, even if we are closed for their year group, please contact the school as we made clear in the **text sent out** on Tuesday 17th March



Executive Head . Chris Parkinson . **Head of School** . Dave Bennett . **Deputy Head of School** . Fiona Le Cras

Assistant Heads of School . Wesley Collins . Annabel Roberts . Jason Scrimshire

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School activities

- After school activities, trips and visits have all been cancelled or postponed
- After school detentions will no longer run - they will be at lunch and break time
- Parents' evenings are postponed until further notice

Looking after the mental health of your child(ren)

- It must be emphasised with our children that there is no need for alarm or distress
- We are taking these steps to protect the elderly and most vulnerable within our community. There is excellent advice on looking after your mental health by following this link:
<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

Finally, I just want to say thank you for all your support. It is a very challenging time and it is vital that we support each other and work in partnership together. Please emphasise with your child the importance of good behaviour and following our expectations to make sure that the school runs smoothly even with the challenges we are facing. Please do feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely



Dave Bennett

Head of School