



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am sure that you will agree that it has been a difficult and unprecedented week for all of us in terms of making decisions and planning, at work and at home, for the impact of the Coronavirus. I am writing to bring you up to date with the position in school. Please do take time to read this letter.

Please be aware that government advice is subject to change and this letter represents the current position in school.

Pupil Absence:

As you will be aware, the Government advice relating to Covid-19 changed yesterday evening. If people have:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- a high temperature (above 37.8C or 100F)

they should stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms started. If this is the case please call our absence line and report the absence in the normal way, by either telephoning 01423 798728 or emailing admin@king-james.n-yorks.sch.uk stating your child's name, year group and reason for absence.

Please see the guidance below on correct self-isolation:

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

Please do not send pupils into school to be checked by the school nurse. We are trying to maintain a calm and proportionate response to this situation and in certain circumstances we may have to send pupils home. In this scenario it is important that pupils do not jump to conclusions or spread unhelpful information on social media.

Planning for school closure:

School closure has been discussed in the media. At present there is no immediate advice that all schools should close. What could potentially close, or partially close the school, even before a government directive, is unavailability of staff.

It is therefore important that your email and mobile numbers are up to date so that we can communicate with you in the event of needing to close, or partially close, the school through unavailability of staff or direction of the authorities. If you have recently changed your contact details please contact admin@king-james.n-yorks.sch.uk.

We are working hard on preparing our Virtual Learning Environment (It's Learning) in the event of a school closure so that we can maintain some remote teaching. Next week we will be training staff and reminding pupils of logon details for various online accounts that will support virtual learning. This is absolutely essential for pupils in Year 11 and Year 13. Please check with them that they have these logon details later next week.

Exams:

There is no further information regarding the upcoming public exams but we are working on contingency plans and monitoring the advice from the exam boards.

Parents' Evening and School Events and Visits:

We continue to risk assess all school events. I have recently written to parents of pupils in Year 12 explaining additional safeguards that we will put in place to allow the parent consultations to go ahead. Other events such as music concerts and domestic trips are under review.

It was a very difficult decision to disappoint so many pupils who were due to travel on school trips to Iceland, Berlin and the German exchange trip. I'm grateful for the parent support that I received as we made these decisions. Everyone seemed to understand that it simply did not make sense to send large groups of staff and pupils through major transport hubs and risk a situation developing on a trip that we would not be able to manage safely. Getting pupils back home, in the event of an issue on a trip, was also a key consideration. That decision turned out to be the right one as the government supported the cancelling of school trips abroad in their announcement yesterday.

We are providing refunds on the trips and I appreciate your patience whilst we process them.

I will continue to keep you updated and, once again, thanks for your support and patience at this time.

Yours sincerely,



Mr CA Sugden
Headteacher