



# THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

## A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

17 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

### Coronavirus Update

I am writing to you with an update, regarding the school's response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Firstly, the Government advice remains that schools stay open. Further, staff and students who are not themselves presenting symptoms, should come to school. However, anyone with a high temperature and/or a new, continuous dry cough should self-isolate at home for at least seven days.

Secondly, on a practical note, please would parents and carers refrain from calling school, unless there is an emergency. We are struggling at times to deal with the increased volume of calls.

There are a number of decisions that have been made this morning:

1. All events and activities outside of the school timetable have been postponed or cancelled. This includes revision sessions, sporting fixtures, the upcoming Parents' Evenings, SSP events, Parent Forum, assemblies and staff meetings that are not directly connected to the school's response to the pandemic.
2. Scheduled parent meetings are also cancelled. If urgent, telephone consultations will be arranged.
3. Outside lettings will cease from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.
4. These decisions will be reviewed on a week-by-week basis and you will be notified accordingly of any further changes.
5. The school will make every effort to continue with teaching and learning as far as is reasonably possible, diverting the most resources to those students due to take examinations this summer.
6. The school's care for students who require our support will continue as far as is possible, with Anti-Bullying, Safeguarding and the Student First team available to our students via the following email addresses:

[antibullying@buckinghamschool.org](mailto:antibullying@buckinghamschool.org), [safeguarding@buckinghamschool.org](mailto:safeguarding@buckinghamschool.org) and [studentfirst@buckinghamschool.org](mailto:studentfirst@buckinghamschool.org).

These will be monitored by key staff and students or adults will receive responses from an appropriate person.

*The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs K Bones at [kbones@buckinghamschool.org](mailto:kbones@buckinghamschool.org), if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.*



7. As of 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the school will only be providing lunches to those students who receive free school meals. All other students will need to bring their own packed lunches with them from next Monday. We will also not be providing breakfast. The reason for this is we are concerned that we might find ourselves unable to provide food due to staff absence, but it being too late to make alternative arrangements.
8. We are currently exploring how we will facilitate free school meals in the event of closure.
9. Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle with them into school, so that they can access drinking water at all times.
10. We have been checking soap twice a day. Please can you continue to guide your child(ren) to wash their hands before coming to school, at points during the day and when they get home. To increase capacity for hand-washing, the sinks in the food technology room will be available at break and lunchtimes. Students should feel free to bring their own hand sanitiser, should they wish.
11. We have considered partial closure (ie ask particular year groups not to attend) as our first response to having large numbers of staff unavailable, due to self-isolation. The latest Government guidance to schools recognises that we may need to do this to stay safely open for the rest of our students.

As ever, thank you to all of the community for their fantastic support of the school and of each other.

Yours faithfully



**Mr A McGinnes**

Headteacher

[aallen@buckingham-school.org](mailto:aallen@buckingham-school.org)

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