



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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17 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Coronavirus Update

Sorry to contact you again so soon, but the goalposts shifted significantly last evening, following the Prime Minister's announcement.

As a nation, we are all now instructed to self-isolate our entire household for 14 days if anyone in our household presents symptoms.

School remains open, but we are going to have to continue to make major decisions to secure the safety of those present. Staff will be adhering to Government instructions and it is already clear that we will be unable to sustain full operation whilst we remain open. Every day, more staff join the list of those self-isolating, meaning they will be away from school for two weeks. Simply put, the rate of staff absences will mount faster than the returns.

Therefore, as of Wednesday 18 March, until Friday 20 March, both Year 8 and Year 9 are asked to stay away from school.

We simply cannot guarantee the safety and a meaningful education for all of our students right now. The reason that we have chosen Years 8 and 9 is that they are mature enough to be at home, without their parents being off work too. We will be paying particularly close attention to the staffing of Year 11 and Year 13 lessons, with these students having specialist subject teaching as a priority.

In particular, a message to Years 11 and 13: Please come to school as normal.

All parents will receive further information today about how we are setting work for these students and self-isolating students. The vast majority of students already have been reminded of their classroom codes, which support the plans in place for remote learning – your child has been made aware of this. Your child will also receive email notifications when Google Classroom is updated.

I trust that we are looking after ourselves and our loved ones. Our society is defined by a culture of “keep calm and carry on”. Our children will not remember so much the outbreak itself, but how the family home felt at the time. Our children are watching us and learning from us about how to cope with stress and uncertainty. Let's teach them to be resilient, not to panic.

Yours faithfully

Mr A McGinnes

Headteacher

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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, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.

