



17 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to you this morning to provide an update on decisions that the school has had to make in light of the most recent Government briefing on coronavirus. Clearly, as everyone is aware, the situation is very dynamic and we will endeavour to communicate regularly as we receive information that leads to changes in your child's provision.

To assist everyone through this challenging period, please do follow the Government briefings closely in order to make decisions on whether it is appropriate for your child to be in school. The latest guidance is linked [here](#) to this document. Should anyone in your household have any of the virus symptoms (high temperature or a continuous cough), we are now told that the whole household should self-isolate for **14 days**. In this case, students should **not** be in school. Please do contact the school to let us know so that we can plan accordingly for those in school.

Furthermore, following the guidance for educational settings, if any student should become unwell on site with the symptoms described above, we are required to send them home from school. In this situation, we would contact parents or carers to come and collect them. Whilst I fully understand that this can provide challenges for many people with their own work, please can I ask that you do all that you can to collect them as quickly as you can. We are following the guidance we have been given and will isolate these students from the rest of the school, as best as we are able to, until they are collected.

Unfortunately, as a consequence of the Government's latest guidance, we have had to make some difficult decisions about events that are due to take place in school. The school production of Sister Act, which was due to take place on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening has had to be postponed. We still plan to run this production as soon as it can be done so safely. We are hugely disappointed for the students, who have put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to prepare for this production, but have to prioritise public health above all other considerations on this matter. Further to this, all schools in South Oxfordshire have collectively decided to postpone all school PE fixtures at least until the Easter holidays. This decision has been taken because the students involved in those fixtures would not need to meet and make contact if the fixture did not take place, thus reducing avoidable contact. As our students continue to integrate in school, we have decided that we are still able to run after-school clubs as normal. Clearly, it is your decision whether you would like your child to attend these after-school clubs.

We also feel that we have to take the decision to postpone any avoidable contact with other adults that would not normally be on our school site. Consequently, we have decided to postpone the following events that were due to take place this week:

- Year 10 mentoring appointments
- SEN review meetings
- Planned meetings with parents on school site

We will endeavour to put these meetings back into the calendar in future. Please understand that, whilst we recognise the importance of all of these scheduled meetings, the guidance suggest that we should protect all parties from passing this virus; public health has to remain our priority. For the same reason, we have taken the decision to postpone the Year 8 Parents' Evening scheduled to take place on Thursday 26th March. Again, this will be rescheduled in the future.

The events of the past few days and weeks are unprecedented. Whilst the Government informs us to do so, we will prioritise keeping the school open and keeping your children safe. We understand that many people in our school community are extremely anxious, whether it be Year 11 students unsure about the impact on exams or any other person concerned about their own or other people's health. We will continue to try to support our wider community with these anxieties, but please can I ask for understanding that, in the current climate, we may not be able to respond to every individual parental question or query as quickly as we might normally do so.

Lastly, given the dynamic situation, I fully expect that I may need to write to you fairly regularly to provide updates on the school's position. Please do keep a look out for messages on Parentmail as well as other guidance provided by the Government.

Yours sincerely



Mat Hunter
Headteacher