



St Katherine's School



Tuesday 17 March

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID 19 update

Following the latest update from the government and Public Health England in relation to self isolation and household isolation, we are now having to make decisions regarding partial closure to preserve the safety of staff and students on site.

After careful consideration we have taken the decision to partially close the school effective from Wednesday 18 March 2020. We are mindful of our position within the local community and wish to support our families and local community as much as we can. **We will be open to the following students only:**

- **Year 13 students who are not in household isolation**
- **Year 11 students who are not in household isolation**
- **Students whose parents are front line NHS or other emergency services staff who are not in household isolation**

We understand there may be some childcare issues for parents and carers who work in front line health or emergency services. We recognise the importance of trying to maintain 8am-4pm provision for these families. Please email our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Crocker (crockerk@skdrive.org) if this is a concern.

We understand that students and families are feeling anxious about the impact of absence on the continuity of learning. We have taken time to speak with our students today and yesterday to reassure them of the steps we are taking as a school to support their learning. We have spoken to them about supporting each other and managing their anxieties, along with reinforcing the messages on personal hygiene. Further guidance will follow.

We must all continue to be vigilant within our communities and follow the advice from the government and Public Health England. I would ask that you do not send your child/children to school with any illness given the current situation and demands on the school community. Should a student or member of staff develop symptoms while on site we will make arrangements for them to go home following the guidance for educational settings. We will then advise them to follow the staying at home guidance.

The full guidance for staying at home can be accessed here:

<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>

The full guidance for educational settings can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

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If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us through the usual school@skdrive.org, your child's tutor or Head of House. Please understand that staff working routines will be impacted through these events. There will be regular communication from us during the closure to help keep a sense of community and provide information and relevant updates.

This is a unique event for all of us; there is no way of knowing exactly when St Katherine's will resume as normal. I understand this is unsettling for us all and may create further significant anxiety amongst students and parents/carers. We will continue to monitor developments closely each day and will keep everyone updated through our website, social media and direct communication.

Yours sincerely





Justin Humphreys
Headteacher

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