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17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid 19/Coronavirus Update (Evening) - 17/03/2020

Thank you so much for your support in this very challenging time. School has been a calm and purposeful place and we hope we are doing our duty to support families as best we can.

At present we are following the government advice to remain open. However, over the next few days we will be partially closing to year groups where we don't have enough staff to manage learning safely. The school is taking a very proactive approach to staff self-isolation, making sure we follow all public health guidance. Our goal is to keep the school environment as safe as we can.

When deciding which groups to keep at home we are using these principles:

1. Keeping the school open to the youngest children in the school, to support parents being able to go to work
2. We are looking at which year groups isolating teachers teach so we can try and keep the same teachers with the same students
3. We are trying to keep the school open and available for Year 11 and Year 13 (today this involved keeping Year 12 at home)
4. Reviewing overall learner attendance numbers to support safe ratios

Wednesday 18th March

As advised in the text sent out this afternoon and given projected staff absences we will be closing to Years 8, 9 and 12 tomorrow. Work will be available on student google classrooms. For any issues please email: virtualclassroom@school21.org.uk. If things change overnight, we will get back in touch in the morning by 7:45am.

Primary home learning

In the event of school closure from Reception - Year 4 we will be publishing work on this website: <https://sites.google.com/school21.org.uk/primaryschool21classroom/home?pli=1&authuser=2>. There is some work there already but more will be added.

Parents/Carers who work in the NHS or support the health service

We don't know what the next few weeks will hold but one of the reasons the government is keeping schools open is to ensure people who work with and for the health service are supported by having their children at school. We want to play our part in this national effort. To help us plan could you let us know if you work for the NHS or adult social care or any other critical organisations. Please email Stephanie Shaldas - Head of Pupil Support - sshaldas@school21.org.uk

Community support

Staff and students are increasingly keen to support vulnerable groups if there is a wider societal shutdown. If you know of any projects or ideas, please do get in touch. (odebotton@school21.org.uk)

Cont/nd overleaf.....

Government updates and medical conditions

A reminder to keep-to-date with the latest government guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>. Please read carefully the guidance around vulnerable groups (this includes people with underlying health conditions) and make sure you let the school know if your child has any conditions which we are not currently aware of. Please email Michele Barthram - Business Manager - mbarthram@school21.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,



O de Botton
Headteacher