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13 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

## Re: Covid-19 Coronavirus Update

Thank you for all your support during this time. It has been really helpful to hear questions and have feedback and it has been brilliant to see everyone working together as one community.

School life continues as normal with young people working hard in their lessons, preparing for exams and taking this all in their stride. However, as you may have seen and as sent out in our text, the government changed their advice last night about how to approach the virus.

All details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

The main changes are:

- If children have a high temperature (37.8 degrees and higher) and / or a new, continuous cough, they should self-isolate at home **for seven days**. In this scenario please let us know through the normal absence channels - emailing [attendance@school21.org.uk](mailto:attendance@school21.org.uk) by 8:30 or leaving a message on the school answerphone 0208 262 2121 extension 1 - emphasising that they will be self-isolating.
- There is specific guidance for [self-isolation](#) which is linked in above but the main points are:
  - Stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible
  - Sleep alone
  - Wash hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water
  - Stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible
  - Children should remain at home until 7 days after the onset of symptoms. After 7 days, if they feel better and no longer have a high temperature, they can return to their normal routine. If they have not had any signs of improvement and have not already sought medical advice (which you should do if symptoms deteriorate), you should contact NHS 111 online at [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111.
  - Coughs may persist for several weeks in some people, despite the coronavirus infection having cleared. A persistent cough alone does not mean you must continue to self-isolate for more than 7 days

NB: For older students who are self-isolating but feeling better, particularly those preparing for A-levels, we will ask them to join 'google hangouts' so they can still access the learning. More information to follow from Ms Spencer, the Head of Six21

- Foreign school trips will not be going ahead (specifically for School 21 this means the Erasmus programme).

In addition, as previously set-out, the school will:

- Emphasise hand washing for 20 seconds with soap and hot water and the '**catch it, bin it, kill it**' approach to sneezing and tissues
- Regularly clean door handles
- Monitor closely staff and student absence
- Monitor school visitors
- Follow all available public health advice

At this time, I am also postponing parents' events till Easter - amongst other events this directly affects the Primary Bring a Parent to School Week on 23rd - 27th March and the artefact workshop on the 17th March, the Middle School maths quiz night on 20th March and Year 12 evening on 24th March. Whilst this is not the direct guidance from the government, I feel it is a sensible precaution to make sure we can monitor contact points for staff and children.

We are postponing trips until Easter, including swimming in Year 4. Again there is no specific guidance but I want to make sure we have as many staff on site as possible if we have colleagues at home. Lots of local schools are pulling out of sporting fixtures too so we have followed suit. The Year 10 and Year 12 Real World Learning Placements are currently under review as we are waiting on information from employers. I will update parents/carers early next week.

Thanks again for your support and I do recognise this may be an anxious time so please to get in touch if we can support in any way. The school has been working hard to put in place contingency plans for different eventualities and we feel we are ready to face what is a fast changing situation. This information will be sent via letter and newsletter. We will have copies in the front office and it will be on our website.

Yours faithfully,



Oli De Botton  
**Headteacher**