

Highworth Warneford School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Following yesterday's announcements from the government, it is clear that we are entering a new phase of the national response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Even though it might seem counter-intuitive to some, the clear advice to schools is to stay open, at least for the moment. We intend to continue to follow these recommendations, while having the health and wellbeing of our school community as our primary concern.

There is no doubt that these are very challenging times for all of us and we have to be mindful that the situation is constantly changing. Although we have almost a full complement of staff today, there is every reason to believe that this might not be the case in the future e.g. if some need to self-isolate. If it becomes too problematic to safely open the school for all students, we may decide to partially close to some year groups on a rolling basis to ensure that there is continuing education for as many students as possible. If this does happen, we will prioritise Year 11, followed by Year 7, along with any students whose parents work in an area important to the national response e.g. health professionals.

To enable us to focus on delivering our core function of providing a quality education in-school, and to take into consideration the policy of social distancing, the following events and activities have been cancelled in the first instance:

- All sporting fixtures and competitions until further notice
- All other after-school clubs and activities
- The Year 11 theatre trip on 19/3
- The Young Carers trip to Lower Shaw Farm on 24/3
- The Year 9 parents' meeting about option choices on 24/3 (Mr McKinstry will be in separate contact about new arrangements for this)
- The Easter concerts on 31/3 and 1/4
- The Year 8 Parents' Evening on 23/4

We are taking further advice about the PGL revision weekend and any future activities will also be reviewed.

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Meanwhile, it is vital that parents pay very close attention to the new national guidance regarding self-isolation.

If anybody in your household has a new continuous cough and/or high temperature students cannot attend school and the whole household must self-isolate for 14 days.

We do not have the resources to keep track of this, so we are reliant on everyone doing the right thing. Please do let us know using the normal channels if you are in this situation so that we can continue to monitor attendance.

Some other things to note:

- Although there will be exceptions for Year 11 students with coursework deadlines etc. we are not going to be able to respond to individual requests for work for students who are off school. Instead, please encourage the following activities:
 - Reading (either fiction or non-fiction is fine!)
 - Checking Class Charts to see if any homework has been set
 - Access to GCSEPod/Activelearn/BBC Bitesize (login details will be recirculated by the end of this week)
 - Review/revision of previous work
 - Exercise
 - Creative/making tasks
- We will endeavour to offer catering facilities as normal but there could be occasions where this is not possible and there may be limited options or we will ask students to bring their own food.
- Safeguarding of students continues regardless of the current situation. We have a comprehensive safeguarding section on our website. If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child at the school then please make contact:
 - Andy Steele (Designated Safeguarding Lead) asteele@warnefordschool.org
 - Katie Green (Deputy DSL) kgreen@warnefordschool.org
 - Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub: 01793 466903

I hope that this information is helpful in understanding our next steps as a school. As noted, this is a very fluid situation and we will continue to keep you informed every step of the way.

We are in an unprecedented situation but this is when support across the community and for each other will be at its strongest. I wish you and your family the very best.

Yours faithfully



Andy Steele
Headteacher