



16 March 2020

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Following on from the communication sent to you on Friday, and now that we have moved into the Delay Phase, I am writing to provide an update based on recent guidance from the Public Health Authority and the Department of Education.

1. Keeping your child at home & keeping the School informed

- If your child has either a high-temperature or a persistent cough they should be kept at home for seven days and the School should be informed.
- If your child or any family member becomes infected please inform the School.
- Under GDPR the identities of individuals will remain confidential.

2. Google Classroom

Pupils can access learning materials, work and teacher directions via Google Classroom for their classes using the relevant codes on the attached document. Should it become necessary to close the school this will be the primary means by which your daughter/child continues her work and I ask that you ensure they have checked that they can access these resources from home. Teachers have been working extremely hard over the past two weeks to prepare materials and place them on this Virtual Learning Platform and I am grateful to them.

3. Examinations

CCEA and other Awarding Bodies are currently advising that schools prepare for examinations as usual. We will continue to be guided by them and keep you informed of any changes.

4. Scheduled Trips & Events

The current status of planned school trips and events is attached. This will be updated and shared with you as circumstances change. In the event that we are directed to cancel trips, reimbursement of monies paid will be sought but cannot be guaranteed.

5. Hygiene

Although we have moved into the Delay Phase, **it is vital that pupils continue to adhere strictly to the good hygiene habits** established during the Containment Phase.

6. Useful Links

Please stay up to date with ongoing advice and guidance. The following links may help you to do this.

Public Health Authority: <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus>

Department of Education: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/latest-guidance-covid-19-coronavirus>

7. Ongoing Communication

The School will endeavour as far as possible to provide relevant updates via our website, Facebook, Twitter, Parent App and email.

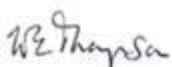
In the meantime school continues to function normally and will respond in accordance with future guidance from the government.

The current situation reminds us all how interconnected the world has become over the past few decades. It has highlighted just how much we depend on one another and on the social structures and routines which provide the stability and security to which we have become so accustomed in our lives.

Should schools close in the future, it is vital for your daughter's education and general wellbeing that routines of study and family activity are maintained and you as parents and guardians must play **the** central role in this.

We are entering a period, probably of several months' duration, that will be quite different from what we have been used to and I am confident that when the course of the Coronavirus has ended (as it will), we will return to our routines having faced challenges, but also having gained a renewed sense of ourselves as members of the society upon which we depend.

I am grateful for your ongoing support and cooperation.



Mr W E Thompson
Headmaster



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