

18 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

Coronavirus update 18.3.2020

Further to my previous communications, I wanted to provide you with an update on our current situation and how the school is responding to this.

AS OF THURSDAY 19TH MARCH ONLY YEAR 10 & YEAR 11 WILL BE IN SCHOOL.

THIS HAS BEEN A VERY DIFFICULT DECISION BUT DUE TO OUR CURRENT STAFFING WE FEEL IT HAS REACHED A CRITICAL TIME WHERE WE CAN ONLY CATER FOR THESE TWO YEAR GROUPS.

THIS WILL BE UP TO AND INCLUDING FRIDAY 3RD APRIL.

WE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED ON ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS VIA OUR WEBSITE.

The Government guidance changed considerably this week, and we have responded to this in the following ways:

- Restricting external visitors to our school sites (this includes non-essential parent meetings).
- Restricting the staff who travel between our Summit Learning sites to working at their home school only.
- Enabling home working for all staff who are in the at-risk group in line with the guidance that states that these groups should now minimise social contact.
- Contacting all parents of known at-risk students to discuss the measures we need to take, if you believe your child is in one of the at-risk groups and we have not contacted you then please contact the school directly.
- Liaising with our facilities, IT and catering providers to monitor their actions and ensure our school can continue to run safely.
- We have also prepared work for students who are at home currently or may be at home in the future. (see below)

The new guidance from the Government this week outlines that:

- Individuals will still be asked to self-isolate for 7 days from the onset of symptoms.
- Other individuals in the same household will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the moment that the first individual experiences symptoms.

This guidance is also impacting staffing levels in the school, we currently have 13 teachers and 9 members of our support team self-isolating, we expect this to increase in the coming days.

We have made adjustments to our timetable and groups to ensure that we can continue to provide a safe and satisfactory provision.

Continued.....

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The current guidance for all schools is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>.

What we are doing

Exams and coursework

This is a worrying time for students who are due to complete external examinations in the summer. We are awaiting further guidance from the DfE and the exam boards and will communicate with you as soon as we have a further update.

Support for students who are entitled to Free School Meals

We have been working with our catering team to see what we can do to provide meals for students who are entitled to a free school meal. We will communicate this with you as soon as we have a further update.

During this partial closure if your child is entitled to a free school meal, there will be a daily option on parent pay (under the event called – FREE SCHOOL MEALS – FSM) to request a packed lunch which can be collected from reception at 12.30pm each day. This option is required by 9.30am on everyday a lunch is required.

Emotional support for students

You will be aware that we have dedicated staff who work closely with some students to provide emotional support. If your child is receiving support from Mr. Stevens, M. Shepperson, Ms. Homer, Mr. March or Ms. Chowdhury then we have arranged for this support to continue in the event of a school closure where possible. See further information on the school website under the Safeguarding tab.

We have reminded students of the support available to them at school and via external agencies. This information can be found on the school website.

Students accessing work from home.

If children have been sent home as they are part of a vulnerable group and for those affected by our partial closure they can access the student portal via the information attached. On the Student Portal students can access a number of websites/resources to support their home learning, for example; Hegarty Maths, Seneca Learning, TT Rockstars and Accelerated Reader.

There are also subject specific resources for each KS3 class they would normally attend. These will appear on-line throughout the day. (As shown to students during their tutor session last Monday)

In the event of any full closure staff will provide work daily for students to access on line as explained on the attached sheet and as mentioned above.

Hard copies of Knowledge Organisers (work packs) can be provided for students who do not have internet access at home from the main office on the day they leave school. KS3 students have been told this today.

If there are any issues with accessing this site, parents/carers must email from the registered email account that the school holds, a request for a password change for their child. The school will reply to the parent with the relevant information. To do this please contact the school via enquiry@cockshuthill.org.uk

We hope you join us in wishing those who are unwell a speedy recovery.

While we fully appreciate this is a worrying time, please rest assured that we are doing all we can to safeguard the good health of our students and our wider school community.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us to achieve this

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Bridges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Jason Bridges
Principal