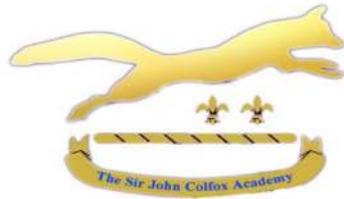


The Sir John Colfox Academy



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

Headteacher: Mr Adam Shelley MEd, BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

13 March 2020

Dear Parents and Students

Let me first of all take this opportunity to say how pleased I have been with Year 11 during the recent mock exams, they have all worked incredibly hard to prepare for these and I am sure that they now feel more confident about the exams in the summer.

As you are aware the Coronavirus is spreading and the Government are preparing to move from the containment to the delay phase of their planning. This could lead to school closures. We are lucky that at the time of writing this there are still no cases in Dorset, however, as a school we are planning to ensure that in particular Year 11 can still get support and help even if they are not in school.

This week we have trained all teachers on Microsoft Teams. This allows work and assignments to be set and marked online, as well as allowing all lesson material to be uploaded. This will help if a student has to self-isolate, but school is still open, as they will still be able to virtually take part in the lesson. This will also give the student direct communication with their teacher to ask questions and get responses. It might also be possible for parts of the lesson to be recorded and uploaded to this site.

If the school does shut then the teachers will use Teams to set work and upload resources. This also allows for all students in the class to communicate with the teachers so they can still get answers to questions.

You daughter or son will be briefed on this next week during one of the tutor times and they will be shown how to use Teams. Teams is available on any device including mobile phones, tablets and PCs, however I am aware that some students do not have access at home to these devices. If that is the case then please let us know and we will send a pack of work home for them to work through.

I have asked all teachers to start using Teams in their lessons next week and to explain how they intend to use this if the school does have to close for anytime or individual students are self-isolating.

I am currently receiving an email every day from the DFE with the latest guidance for schools, including exams, and currently the advice is that all exams will be going ahead as normal. However OFQUAL, the organisation in charge of exams, are planning for different scenarios depending on how the virus spreads. They will keep the school informed about any changes and I will let you know as soon as I get the information.

I thought it would also be useful to provide you with some websites to help with revision, and so enclose these below. It is also worth making sure that all books are at home and not left in school in case we have to close suddenly. Individual subjects will be giving more specific information to their classes over the next week.

I know that GCSEs are a stressful and difficult time for students in normal circumstances and hope that this letter shows that we are doing everything we can to ensure that even if the school has to close, or if students are having to take time off to self-isolate, they can still get access to help and support from their teachers.

I will of course update as soon as I know, but for now we remain fully open and will do so until the Government tells us otherwise.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Shelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Adam Shelley
Headteacher

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