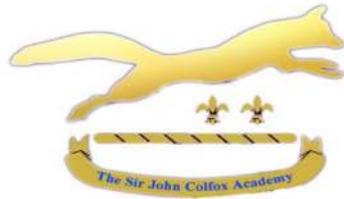


The Sir John Colfox Academy



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

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

13 March 2020

Dear Parents

I wanted to write to inform you about the latest information we have on the Coronavirus. The Government has now moved to the delay phase. In this phase it is likely that schools will be advised to close fully or partially, this has not happened yet and we remain open. With that in mind we would like to ensure that students still have access to work. We have put into action a plan that ensures initially Year 11 and the Sixth Form have access as these are the exam classes. I have written separately to Year 11 parents explaining these measures in more detail.

The students in the Sixth Form have briefly been spoken to and I have asked all teachers from both sites to ensure they have agreed a way in which they will communicate with their students to still allow work to be set and marked as well as dialogue between the students and teachers. This is particularly important if students need to ask questions or have help with their work or revision for the summer exams. The teachers will be speaking to their students next week if they have not already done so.

For Years 7 – 10 in the first instance work can be found on the Knowledge Organisers pages of the school website <https://www.colfox.org/homework-by-subject/>. Over the next few weeks we will look at whether Microsoft Teams can be used to give the students a more interactive experience. We are currently rolling this out to Year 11 as a priority, however some of your children's teachers may be already using Teams with them.

I am aware that some students do not have access to a computer or mobile device and we, therefore, will provide some hard copies of work, so please let us know if you would like this for your child.

In this delay phase we will have some students and staff self-isolating as per the latest Government advice but will remain open to others. With that in mind we are encouraging students to wash their hands, and we will put more sanitiser gel around the school. This is the best way to minimise the risk of potential transmission. We still have very few cases in Dorset and the risk is still relatively low, however when we move to the delay phase this means that the government expects it to be more widespread and is no longer able to be contained.

The latest advice is that if you have symptoms you should self-isolate for at least 7 days. Only telephone NHS 111 if symptoms are severe and they will give you advice. The symptoms are a persistent or new cough or a high temperature above 37.8 degrees. If you are self-isolating then you should not return to school or work, for at least 7 days, even if you feel better. This is why we wanted to ensure that if students are off they can have access to work. If you or your family are self-isolating please inform the school through the normal absence line.

We will also put into place contingency plans if we begin to get a lot of staff self-isolating, but the school is still open so that your child can still learn.

In this latest phase we will not shut unless the Government tell us to, or we cannot, due to staff shortages, keep all the students safe.

This is an ever changing situation and I will update you as soon as we need to take more action. In the meantime school is open for business as usual. I am enclosing at the end of this letter some links and the latest advice from the Government.

Yours sincerely



Adam Shelley
Headteacher

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Government coronavirus action plan

The government coronavirus action plan sets out what the UK has done to tackle coronavirus (COVID-19), and what we plan to do next.

The situation is constantly reviewed and action informed by expert science and advice, guided by the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Adviser.

The action plan can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

How to wash your hands properly

Wash your hands more often for 20 seconds with soap and hot water.

Watch this short NHS film for guidance:

- <https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

Teach young children how to wash their hands with the NHS handwashing song:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjeIWLnEg>

Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport.

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Please note, we are currently experiencing high volumes of calls and apologise for any wait that you may experience. Your call will join a queue and we will answer as soon as possible.

Where to find the latest information

Updates on COVID-19:

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Guidance for educational settings:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Latest Department for Education information:

- <https://twitter.com/educationgovuk>
- <https://www.facebook.com/educationgovuk/>