

10.30am, Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parents/carers

With the picture concerning the COVID19 changing almost at an hourly rate, I just wanted to keep you up to date with what we as a school are doing.

We are receiving and continuing to act on the guidance from the government and health officials. We are continuing to remind staff and pupils about hygiene: washing hands frequently and properly, as well as using the strategically placed dispensers.

Many school events have been cancelled or postponed. This has included the 'Born For This' production, the Italy Trip in July and sporting fixtures. School assemblies, year group liturgies and the whole school Mass have also been cancelled in the run up to Easter.

We have updated the programme of cleaning which continues throughout the school day. Current advice from the government states that schools should remain open. However, this could change and I will let you know should this happen. Should we be required to close, we will be using showmyhomework as the main portal for work to be set and submitted. (Not just for homework.) We will begin uploading lessons to this website within the next day or two whether school closes or not. A booklet will come home with pupils to remind them how to use this facility.

I know that year 11 students will be worried about their GCSE examinations. Please be assured that the government is working with examination boards to ensure that students are not disadvantaged if their education and examinations are disrupted this year.

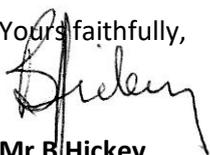
There are some steps that you can take to help minimise risks:

- Please reinforce the messages about good hygiene with your children, encourage thorough hand washing and send them to school with tissues.
- If any member of your close family has recently travelled abroad then please check the government advice.
- If your child does display symptoms of the virus, please do not send them into school and follow government advice regarding self-isolation. Please let us know and they will be marked in the register with a code Y for exceptional circumstances. If this does happen, obviously they should not be out in public.
- Please consider childcare arrangements should the school be required to close.

Whilst continuing to work hard to keep the year 11s on track in the run up to this important time, I am keen to work to try to support those members of the wider community, to enable them to do their job in protecting the most vulnerable – e.g. child care for those who are working in the hospitals and care homes. I will try to continue to do this whilst protecting school staff, pupils and their families.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Hickey
Headteacher

