

17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

The government's latest response to the COVID-19 virus has seen them advise that social distancing is the best way to keep ourselves and our families safe. Despite this they advise that schools and colleges should remain open which, regardless of the measures we have taken to promote the safety of staff and students, clearly presents parents with difficult decisions.

Consequently, in addition to keeping your son or daughter at home if they display COVID-19 symptoms (please see government guidance below) please can I ask you to keep your son or daughter at home if they have an underlying medical condition which puts them at higher risk. The people in this at risk group can be seen here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>.

Similarly, if you or someone else at home is in this 'at risk' group and maybe affected by the additional risk of transmitting the virus presented by your son or daughter remaining at College, then my advice is to keep them at home.

If you do decide to keep your son or daughter at home for any reason related to COVID-19, please email their tutor so that we can record this as a reason for absence. The College will consider any absence relating to COVID-19 as authorised.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment that teachers and support staff at College continue to show to our students. However, they too are faced with the same difficult decisions regarding how best to protect themselves or family members who are in high-risk groups. The need for some staff to work from home as well as the increasing number of students who are unable to come into College, means that we are now finalising our plans to move to online teaching. I will provide further details of this tomorrow.

Regards

Ed Senior
Principal

Government Guidance

New guidance for households with symptoms

Yesterday, the Government introduced new guidance on whole household isolation in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

The Prime Minister's statement from Monday 16 March can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-coronavirus-16-march-2020>