

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the school's position regarding Coronavirus. We are following the guidance from Public Health England and the Department of Education and this means that our aim and priority is that the school will remain open for teaching and learning. This is clearly an unprecedented situation.

For the latest government guidance relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), please refer to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The government has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms, or if anyone in the household shows these symptoms, to stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 14 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to help slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

- a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly

Please contact the school (using absence@drapersacademy.com) to let us know if your family is self-isolating as a result of the guidance above. Please also contact us as a matter of urgency, using this email address, to let us know if a child or family member is diagnosed with Coronavirus. **Please do not send your child to school if they or anyone in the same household has these symptoms. Follow the 14 day self-isolation advice.**

In order to reduce the potential spread of infection, we are taking the following action with effect from Tuesday 17th March 2020:

- The **Year 8 Parents' Evening** scheduled for Wednesday 18th March and the **Year 7 Parents' Evening** for Wednesday 1st April are postponed until further notice.
- All sporting fixtures (home and away) have been cancelled.



- All trips and visits until the end of this term have been cancelled. Refunds will be issued (where applicable) as soon as possible but please bear with us due to the time needed to process.
- All after school clubs including revision sessions are cancelled until further notice.
- All Saturday revision sessions are cancelled. We will reassess our Easter revision programme nearer the time.
- We will limit the number of non-essential visitors to the school.
- No assemblies or large group events.
- Water fountains cannot be used for direct drinking but for refilling water bottles only.
- Sanitiser and tissues are available around the building.

We have a significant number of teachers and support staff who are at home self-isolating. Therefore I have taken the decision to send home Year 9 pupils between 2.15 – 3.00pm today. They will be provided with their exercise books plus an additional book. Work will be set via Frog and DPR over the next few days. They will not be expected to return for at least two weeks, the earliest possible date will be Wednesday 1st April, but this will be reviewed nearer the time when the situation is more clear.

Should your child need to be supervised because you are employed by one of the following:

- NHS
- Emergency Services
- Education
- Social Care

Please email admin@drapersacademy.com and send your child in, unless you are self-isolating as a family.

The current guidance from OFQUAL states that GCSE and A-Level examinations scheduled for the summer term are taking place as originally published and you can find this guidance as follows:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-statement-on-coronavirus> .

Should this change we will, of course, contact parents.



There is no immediate plan to close schools by the government; however, we do have contingency plans in place should this happen. We are currently planning for home learning activities. These will be published should this event arise but would ask for the time being that you take the following steps to ensure that, should this decision be taken, your child is able to access the work set with no disruption. Pupils should:

- Ensure they take home any books and exercise books
- Ensure they know how to access Frog and DPR
- Ensure they can access the subject specific software e.g. Hegarty Maths, Seneca (a more detailed list of these can be found in Frog)

Please contact the email account (drapersDPR@drapersacademy.com) if you are having any problems regarding log in details or access to on-line resources.

The guidance to schools is likely to change in the coming days and weeks and we will inform parents should this happen. Please note that we will communicate any update or changes to our operations to you using the usual methods:

- email via SIMS In-Touch
- our website
- and via our Facebook page and Twitter feed

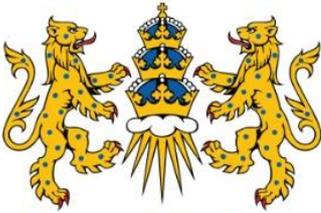
I am asking parents to be understanding. We do not have an extensive phone call handling system and it may be difficult for us to answer all of your questions as quickly as you would like. I ask parents to only use phone communication with the school for emergencies. Details of absence should be reported to absence@drapersacademy.com .

All other questions should be directed to admin@drapersacademy.com in writing.

These are worrying times for us all and as a community we need to pull together to support one another. Please keep an eye out in the community for those who may need additional support.

The circumstances are changing daily and I appreciate your patience while I make decisions that are in the best interest of our pupils, students and their families. I will endeavour to keep you updated whenever possible. In the meantime, as the situation





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changes upon government advice, I advise you to follow whatever information is given to you at that time.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Darren Luckhurst
Principal



 Queen Mary
University of London