

St Wilfrid's Catholic School

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Headteacher: Michael Ferry BEd (Hons) MA NPQH

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton and West Sussex County Council

17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Covid-19 Update

Since writing to you on Friday of last week the Government advice has changed considerably, notably that:

- Anyone with symptoms should still self-isolate for 7 days but that any person in the same household should now self-isolate for 14 days.
- If, after 14 days, anyone you live with does not have symptoms, they can then return to their normal routine.
- However, if anyone in your home develops symptoms whilst self-isolating for 14 days, they should remain in isolation for 7 days from the start of the symptoms developing even if this means they are home for more than 14 days.

Regarding the above, I would ask you to ensure that as a family you follow this advice to the letter and not send your children to school if anyone in your home has symptoms.

The move to a 14 day isolation period as described has already had an impact on staffing levels which have been further reduced by the guidance published regarding "social distancing" of those who are deemed to be at increased risk of severe illness from Covid-19 <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>.

The reality of this situation, despite the fact that there remain no confirmed cases of students or staff having contracted the virus, is that we cannot continue to remain fully open to all year groups.

In a bid to lessen the impact on parents/carers when it comes to taking time off work, whilst at the same time trying to prioritise Year 11 and Year 13 students who are preparing for exams, I have decided on the following:

- From Wednesday 18th March through to and including Friday 20th March:
 - Year 10 students are to remain at home.
 - Year 12 students are to attend as normal but may expect some disruption to lessons.

Work will be set for both year groups using the Show My Homework programme. Students will be able to contact teachers via email should they need to.

For the time being we have cancelled some after school events such as the Spring Concert and have curtailed some of our trips and in school activities eg. Year 12 Geography Field Trip has been postponed as has the School Marathon scheduled for Thursday. In line with National Governing Body advice, all school sports clubs and fixtures have been suspended.

We are in challenging times but please be assured that we are working tirelessly to ensure that we give your child/children the best education and support possible.

The Government will be making daily announcements from now on and I will respond accordingly to keep you as up to date as possible with any impact on St Wilfrid's. The situation is extremely fluid but I will contact you again before the end of the week should arrangements change for the next 3 days, as well as outlining arrangements for next week.

As ever, thank you for your continuous support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ferry', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Michael Ferry
Headteacher