17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to update you on St Nicholas’ response to the rapidly changing advice given by the Government in relation to Coronovirus Covid-19.

Following my letter last sent on Friday 13th March, additional important guidance given by the Government yesterday afternoon.

The Prime Minister has now advised families that if one person in any household has a new persistent cough or fever, ***everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days***. I would ask that you follow this important advice and contact school via the usual channels of communication to report your child’s absence.

In his address yesterday, the Prime Minster also stated that “*now is the time for everyone to stop non-essential contact with others and to stop all unnecessary travel*.” With this in mind, St Nicholas has decided to implement the following measures:

* We will no longer be engaging in sporting fixtures from Wednesday 18th March.
* We will no longer be offering any after-school clubs or activities from Wednesday 18th March including Homework Club and Revision Classes.
* We will be looking to suspend and reschedule where possible all school trips with immediate effect. Trip Leaders are currently in dialogue with trip providers to establish the process in these unprecedented times. Further details will be sent to relevant families when available.
* Until further notice, all parental communication will be conducted via telephone or email unless there is a safeguarding concern that requires a face to face consultation.

If, having considered the most recent guidance from the Government in relation to *Social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults,* should you wish for your child to remain at home, please inform the school using the normal absence communication channels.

At present, we are not able to provide any work for students who are unable to attend school. We would advise families to consult our online platform (Ruler) for all homework to

be completed as usual. If your child is currently undertaking assessed work for a GCSE or A-Level qualification then further guidance will be given once clarification has been received from the examination boards.

It seems inevitable that staff absence levels will increase over the days ahead as colleagues have to self-isolate, either because they are ill themselves or because someone in their household has become unwell. We will respond to these daily demands as they arise. This may require us to facilitate greater class sizes as we look to prioritise Year 11 and Year 13 provision.

We are well underway with our contingency planning to support the eventuality of a school closure in the future. Should this be necessary, then work will be provided via our online ‘Ruler’ platform and we will update you with further details as matters progress.

At school, we are continuing to advise students and staff to wash their hands and we have taken all other practical measures as recommended by the Government, the Department for Education and Public Health England.

Should your child become ill whilst at school, we will contact you and ask you to collect them at the earliest opportunity.

I will keep you updated as matters develop further and offer you all every good wish and blessing as we look to support each other through this challenging time together.

Yours sincerely


**Richard Woods
Headteacher**