



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on our plans for providing continuity of education in response to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The Government announced at the end of last week that the UK is moving out of the contain phase and into the delay phase. The Prime Minister stated that he is not asking schools to close and the Government will continue to monitor the situation over the coming weeks. As the situation develops, we continue to follow Government advice, which is updated daily. For the latest information on the outbreak for schools, please follow this [link](#).

Public Health England reiterates that the most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Anyone who develops a high temperature (37.8 degrees and above) or a new, continuous cough, should self-isolate for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to any of the affected areas. If you have any direct medical concerns, contact NHS 111 or use the online service by following this [link](#).

We have already taken a number of steps to try to ensure the pupils are kept safe at school which includes additional anti-bacterial cleaning during the day, cancelling whole school assemblies, extra deeper cleans, hand sanitizers for visitors entering the school and for pupils, especially before they eat at break and lunch. Needless to say we are also regularly reminding the pupils about the need to wash their hands on a regular basis.

Some countries have already closed their schools. We are aware that the UK Government could do this at some point and we have therefore put together contingency plans to provide the best possible continuity of education for our pupils if St. Olave's Grammar School is closed. This includes delivering lessons remotely via the Microsoft Teams capability or MOODLE. Members of staff who are already using Sharepoint and Teams to communicate with pupils will add an instruction in the Unexpected School Closure MOODLE courses which directs them to check Sharepoint and their class and year Teams pages for work and guidance.

We will brief all pupils again this week on how to use MOODLE and the vast majority of them have already accessed MOODLE during this year. An information sheet for parents will be sent home and all pupils have a working 'saintolaves.net' email address for them to contact staff if they are unable to access work. It is also important that pupils take any notes and textbooks home with them in case of a closure if these are normally kept at school.

Pupils who do not have access to a smart phone or computer with wifi access at home should speak to either Assistant Headteachers, Mrs Maxwell or Mr Birtchnell, so that we can be sure to have hard copies of materials available for any student who cannot access online resources.

If there is a school closure, form tutors and the pastoral team will still be able to provide pastoral support to pupils and should be the first point of contact for non-subject specific concerns. Contact details can be found on the school website. Please be sure to include your son's full name and form group to ensure the message reaches the intended recipient. In addition to the pastoral support structures common to all year groups (of Form Tutor, Head of Year and Assistant Headteacher), the School has other avenues of pastoral support. The School's Chaplain, School Counsellor, and Safeguarding Team can offer additional support and advice for students facing a range of difficulties. We will continue to still make referrals to external agencies as deemed necessary.

We recognise that there will be obvious concerns about the possible impact of coronavirus on the 2020 Public Examinations. Ofqual's current advice is to continue to prepare for exams and other assessments as normal. Pupils should not listen to rumours we believe are circulating that the exams may not take place. Ofqual continues to work closely with exam boards, other regulators and the Department for Education to plan for a range of scenarios. Their overriding priorities are fairness to pupils this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum. We will update you as and when we receive any further information relating to examinations.

On Friday, we received clear advice from Government that international school trips should not happen. We therefore expect that our Easter trips will not be able to take place. The trip organisers will contact those families affected with further details in due course.

In line with government guidance, we are reviewing upcoming domestic trips, D of E expeditions, visits, fixtures and events and will notify you of any changes or cancellations.

The safety and wellbeing of our school community remains a top priority for everyone at St. Olave's Grammar School. Thank you for your understanding, patience and continuing support. As we prepare for unprecedented and difficult times ahead, we will continue to update you as and when we receive any further information.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Rees

Headteacher