



Ashton Community Science College

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'a school to be proud of'

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Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your continued support as we manage our response to the emerging situation with COVID-19. We wanted to write to update you regarding the current situation at school and reassure you that we continue to adhere to Government guidance as well as following our internal emergency planning.

Student absence:

The latest guidance states:

- staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal
- if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home
- If one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days
- Those people should, if possible, avoid leaving the house "even to buy food or essentials" - but they may leave the house "for exercise and, in that case, at a safe distance from others"
- Schools will not be closed for the moment

We respectfully ask then that you adhere to this guidance and **do not send your son/daughter into school if they are exhibiting signs of the virus.** Instead, you should follow the latest guidance regarding self-isolation. Please continue to inform us of your son/daughter's absence using the absence line.

If your son/daughter is self-isolating they should use Show My Homework and other web-based applications they will have used in school to support their learning; they should also be encouraged to read on a daily basis. We are sure that you will understand that it will not be possible to provide individual work for specific students during this very challenging period.

School events and meetings:

In the light of current guidance, we have taken the decision to cancel all school events, including the Year 10 Parents' Evening scheduled for 2nd April. In addition, all non-essential meetings will be cancelled. Essential meetings involve statutory duties and safeguarding concerns. Staff have been asked to cancel any planned face to face meetings with immediate effect and instead offer parents telephone consultations at mutually convenient times in their place.



Trips, visits and fixtures:

Planned trips and visits will be cancelled with immediate effect. Sports fixtures will be cancelled with immediate effect. The PE department will continue to teach PE lessons but there will be restrictions placed on physical contact.

Partial or full school closure:

If it is necessary to partially or fully close the school, we will of course endeavour to give parents/carers as much notice as possible. However, it may be necessary to close at short notice. We understand parents/carers and students will have concerns about the possible disruption to learning, especially in the run-up to GCSE examinations. Students in examination years will be prioritised in the event of a partial closure.

In the event of a partial/full school closure we would move to the next stage of our emergency planning. This may involve your son/daughter accessing electronic learning platforms such as Show My Homework (SMHW), Educake, Hegarty Maths etc. All students have been asked to ensure that they have the relevant passwords for online resources. During any period of closure, we will communicate with students regularly via SMHW and will ensure that work is set for them on a daily basis, following the school timetable wherever possible. If this will present a significant problem in terms of access to the internet, please contact reception as soon as possible so that we can make alternative provision for your child.

Should you or your son/daughter need to reset passwords whilst the school is closed, help can be found on the school website.

In the event of full closure, staff who are well will be working remotely during school hours.

Examinations and external assessments:

We are closely following updates from Ofqual and the awarding bodies in relation to the forthcoming examination period and will communicate with parents/carers and students of year 11 as soon as we have any information to share.

Latest guidance:

The latest Government advice and guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19#contents>

We would like to thank all parents/carers for their continued support, understanding and flexibility during this difficult period. We will continue to update you with our response to the emerging and rapidly-changing situation.

Yours sincerely



Miss S Asquith
Headteacher