



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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18 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will know, the advice around Covid 19/Coronavirus with regard to social distancing has recently been changed, but the government still wants schools to remain open.

The leadership of the three schools met on Tuesday to plan our response to this latest advice, but we are fully aware that we may well have to change this to respond to new government instructions.

However, as it currently stands the following is the plan for the three schools in the Seaton Valley Federation and will be in place until 20th April 2020. This is the first day back after the Easter Holidays.

- All school clubs are now cancelled
- All sporting fixtures are cancelled
- All events in the school calendars are now cancelled
- Year 11 revision will continue to take place after school
- Detentions will continue at all three schools
- Any trips with no financial cost will be cancelled. The trips with financial implications will be reviewed after Easter
- Enrichment activities on a Wednesday afternoon at ACHS will continue
- Lettings and community learning after school are all cancelled
- Easter revision days at ACHS will continue as planned if school is open and staff are able to attend.
- If you need to contact someone at one of the schools, please email them or call them on the telephone. Please do arrive at the school in person
- Music peripatetic lessons will continue until such time that the schools are closed by the government.
- Both sites will be closed at the weekend
- There are a number of admin staff absent across the federation. The front office at Elsdon Ave will be staffed, but not by the usual staff
- SSMS reception will be staffed but the phones will be redirected to ACHS
- We have enough first aiders at both sites should any students require their assistance
- We have staff at both sites who will be able to administer medication should your child need it

These cancellations and changes will start from **Wednesday 18th March 2020**

Regarding the trips to the Ardeche, France and Dukes House Wood, no decision has been made yet about them going ahead, because the trips are some way off or the tour operator has not given us any decision/guidance as to what they are going to do. Please note as the government has only advised against travel, if we cancel a trip, the insurance companies do not have to pay out. We need the government to say that trips are not allowed in order for us to cancel them and then get refunds back to you.



I realise that parents/carers and the young people themselves in years 11 and 13 will have many questions about GCSE and A level exams. Sadly we have not had any advice from the exam boards and Ofqual except to say that, at the moment, they envisage exams to continue as laid out. As soon as I hear anything regarding exams I will let you all know.

The federation leadership will look at the events after Easter in the next few weeks and will let you know what is happening with regard to these events. This will most likely be in the last week of the Easter Holidays.

With regard to school closures, we will try and keep the three schools open as requested by the government. However, I have to be honest and say that the number of staff who are either self isolating or have been told to take action and socially distance themselves due to underlying health issues or because they are pregnant is growing and may result in partial school closures.

PLEASE NOTE I HAVE NOT SAID THE SCHOOLS ARE CLOSING.

Should any school closure happen, you will be informed and given as much notice as possible. If the schools do close, be it our choice or because we have been instructed by the government, there will be work available on the website and via Google Classroom for all pupils to do. More information regarding how to access this work will follow if a decision to close is made.

We are looking to see how we can support those pupils who get a free school meal should the schools need to close. If all the schools close we are not able to do much. However should there be a partial closing of the schools, then we will offer any child who has a free school meal the opportunity to come in and have a packed lunch if their year group is not in school or a full lunch if their year group is in school. If you feel you would like to accept this offer further details will be sent to you individually via School Gateway.

If the schools do partially close, we will offer the children of any emergency/health workers the opportunity to come into school no matter what year that they are in, so that the parents of these pupils can attend their jobs.

With regard to the health of your own children, all I can say is please look at the government advice with regard to keeping children off school. We will send any child home who has a high temperature (37.8 degrees and above) and/or a new, continuous cough.

I apologise that this letter is so long, but I hope it clarifies the position for the three schools as it is at the moment. However, we all know that things can alter very quickly and we will update you as soon as anything does change.

Can I thank you and your children for your support and understanding in these difficult times. Also can I thank my staff who are doing all they can to make sure that things remain as normal as possible for everyone.

Yours sincerely

JBarnes

John Barnes
Executive Headteacher