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17 March 2020

Re: Covid-19

Dear Parents

My now daily (today, twice daily) update on the school and Covid-19 is to clarify some questions that I have received from some parents and to offer some further guidance on where we are in terms of the school's ability to function at this time.

I have been made aware that there is a rumour circulating amongst some parents that a member of our school has tested positive for Covid-19.

This is not true.

As I write, on 17th March at 4pm, I am not aware of any student, or any member of the family of any student, testing positive for Covid-19. If I do become aware of this, it is my intention to share the information, albeit not the specific identity or identities, with everyone so that we can proceed in the best possible manner.

In some of my letters I have addressed the steps that we have taken in school to mitigate the threat posed by the coronavirus. I thought it might be sensible to put into one place the key steps which I have referenced in different letters. These are listed as below:

- We have instructed the cleaners to take especial care to clean key areas, such as surfaces and door handles, with greater diligence and frequency. Cleaning as a whole is being closely monitored and increased as far as possible.
- We have cancelled all external events which would bring children and adults into the school or would take our students out of the school (this includes concerts, sports fixtures, the Open Day and so on).
- We have cancelled assemblies, so as to avoid grouping larger numbers into one room, at the same time.
- Anyone who presents symptoms which could be Covid-19 (most especially a new and persistent cough or a very high temperature) is advised not to be in school and to self-isolate for fourteen days and any of their families must do so too.
- The advice above also applies to teachers and other adults who work in school as well.
- We have placed hand sanitiser at key points across the campus and especially in the Dining Hall.
- In assemblies and via their tutor groups and lessons, we have stressed to students the need to wash hands more often and for longer, as instructed by the Government. We will continue to do this.
- The compulsory activity programme has been suspended and if parents wish students to go home at the end of school, then they can. If they stay, activities will still run.
- For your children's benefit, we have put onto the website a good and clear powerpoint that we have been sent which is designed to explain the Covid-19 virus. Although simplistic, it is a good thing for anxious children to see.

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The situation is changing daily, as we all discovered yesterday when the Prime Minister made some unprecedented announcements in his briefing. I and all of my colleagues will continue to watch these with care and contact you as soon as we know or have been told anything.

As I have said from the start, we intend to remain open until we are instructed to close.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Dr C G Walker
Headmaster



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