



18 March 2020
lrr/jcl/covid19update/170320

COVID-19

Dear Parents and Carers

You will be aware now that GOV UK has put in place several significant social isolation measures and plans to help combat the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Presently these have fallen short of school closures but there is a sense nationally that it will only be a matter of time before a decision about closure are forced onto schools.

Staff are working hard to keep St John's open, but we are short staffed already. This is largely due to the self-isolation directive for staff if they are part of a vulnerable group or if either they or their family members are displaying any of the symptoms outlined by GOV UK. This is unlikely to become any easier to manage and we are monitoring the situation on an hourly basis. If we are not confident that students can be safely supervised, we will have to implement plans to close. This may have to be to certain year groups or classes to begin with, and whatever happens we will keep you posted if such decisions have to be made.

In preparation for Academy closure, all students are having every resource possible made available for them to work remotely and these have been highlighted in an earlier letter. There are, however, a number of more recent developments that I would like to draw your attention to:

- We have cancelled all trips, visits, visitors, sports fixtures, parents' evenings and concerts for the foreseeable future in line with advice.
- We have ensured that families and staff associated with St John's are adhering to Government guidelines around Covid-19. The information is changing daily and can be found on our website at: <https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/latest-covid-19-information/>.
- To mitigate the chances of missing a vital piece of communication from you on the Covid-19 situation we have set up a special email address for parents to use. This is: covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk. Please do not use this to report absences or for anything other than queries directly related to Covid-19.
- As you can imagine, our School Nurse is being overwhelmed with enquiries from students. To try and reduce the impact here, please follow the Chief Medical Officer's advice around self-isolation and **do not** send your son or daughter into school if they demonstrate any of the outlined symptoms which are:
 - A new continuous cough and/or
 - High temperature

If pupils have these symptoms, then they should now take steps to stay at home and not leave their house for 7 days from when their symptoms started. However, in addition, anyone living with someone who is self-isolating should now stay at home for at least 14 days to avoid spreading the infection outside of the home.

In the meantime, we want to reassure you that we are placing a high degree of importance on communication during these unprecedented times. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further guidance or use our dedicated section on the school website for help.

Yours faithfully

Ian Tucker
Principal

