

13th March 2020

The
COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL
Leftwich



Dear Parent / Carer

Further update regarding the Coronavirus

As I'm sure you are aware, on Thursday 12th March the Government moved from the 'containment' stage to the 'delay' phase of its plan to tackle the coronavirus. I would like to update all parents/carers of our plans moving forward. The County High School, Leftwich has and will continue to comply with all Government guidance. This is obviously a dynamic situation and I will keep parent/carers up-to-date should our plan need to evolve. I will ensure information is shared via InTouch, the school website www.leftwichhigh.com and via the school Twitter account @leftwichhigh

We are continuing with a programme of increased cleaning and reminding all students, staff and visitors to follow basic hygiene routines. We are following good general advice about infection prevention and control at a time when colds and flu are common.

Following advice from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office the Bay of Naples trip, was cancelled earlier this week. Regrettably, we now also have to cancel the Catalonia Trip. Whilst disappointing, the health and safety of students and staff must always be our priority.

The updated Government advice is for anyone with a **"high temperature and a new continuous cough to stay at home for 7 days"**. Whilst I obviously hope this is not the case, it does raise the possibility that the school may not have enough staff to remain open to all students. Please be reassured that a closure of any sort will be a last resort and following official advice.

I have spoken to Year 11 in Assembly this morning and encouraged them to continue with their preparations for their crucial exams which will happen in May. Government advice currently states that the 2020 exam season will continue as published, however attention should be drawn to the contingency date and that **"Centres must therefore remind candidates that they must remain available until Wednesday 24th June 2020 should an**



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Principal Mr M Snelson BSc (Hons), PGCE, MSc

awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.” JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications). In the event of a partial school closure, we will prioritise the learning of Year 11 students.

In preparation for a potential full school closure, Subject Leaders and their teams have worked hard this week to create bespoke online resources, which students can access via Google Classrooms. I would like to thank my colleagues for their dedication, thoughtfulness and hard work in creating these resources. I have told Year 11 that they are to follow their timetable and engage with the online and paper resources. Today, sessions have been provided to ensure that Year 11 students can access their school email and the online resources. Teachers will also follow their Year 11 timetable, where possible, and be able to provide support and feedback to their Year 11 students. Online resources for Year 7 to 10 students are also available. Should accessing IT at home be a problem, please contact Mr Warburton (rwarburton@leftwichhigh.com and we will support where possible).

Regrettably in order to minimise the risk to students, staff and/or visitors; ensure my colleagues are able to focus fully on preparing for any potential school closure and to ensure that we maximise the amount of staff available to teach lessons, the following events will have to be cancelled/postponed:

- **Year 9 Options Consultation Evening** (Monday 16th March) *please contact Subject Leaders via email or phone should you require any additional advice and guidance regarding the Year 9 Options process*
- **Geography Field Trip** (Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th March)
- **Spring Music Concert** (Friday 20th March)
- **Year 10 Manchester Airport Trip** (Friday 20th March)
- **Year 10 Mock Interview Day** (Monday 23rd March)

We will continue to closely monitor and follow all Government advice and update parents/carers accordingly. I would like to thank all parents/carers for your understanding and support. I hope a closure of any sort is not required but I also hope this letter provides reassurance that the school is preparing for all eventualities and attempting to minimise the disruption to students' learning, whilst ensuring their safety continues to be our highest priority.

More information and advice regarding the Corona virus is available on the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

The link below provides the latest advice for schools from Public Health England https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866771/Coronavirus_advice_for_education_settings_poster.pdf

Yours sincerely

Mr M Snelson
Principal