



Spalding High School

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Headmistress Mrs M Anderson B.Ed

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

17th March 2020

The government advice on dealing with Covid-19 was strengthened again last night and so whilst much of my letter to you yesterday remains applicable, the School's position now needs to reflect the new advice. The Government's expectation is that schools must remain open unless instructed to close by Public Health England. We would like to reassure you that the health and wellbeing of the school community continues to be our top priority.

Government advice:

The most up-to-date advice from PHE can be found [here](#) and from the NHS website [here](#).

This covers the recent onset of:

- new continuous coughs and /or
- high temperature (you feel hot to touch on your chest or back)

Gov.uk Guidance for households with possible Covid-19 states:

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for **7 days** from when your symptoms started.
- if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

We ask that parents remain vigilant about symptoms their child may have and do not send them to school if they (or any member of the household) show these signs.

Notifying the School of self-isolation related absence:

- Parents should contact the School and inform us that **their child or a member of the family** is self-isolating. Our Attendance Officer and/or pastoral staff will make contact on the first day of self-isolation and every two-three days thereafter to see how the student is doing.
- If a student presents at school with a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature then we will contact you to collect your child and discuss whether self-isolation is necessary.
- Please ensure that you contact the School to notify us of your child's planned return to school. We will support their return in the normal way following an absence.

Work during self-isolation whilst the school remains open:

Whilst we have a small number of students who are self-isolating, the following work should be completed:

- Students should follow their daily timetable of subjects and use online revision sites such as BBC Bitesize and their books (if they have them) to revise the topics they have studied this term/year in preparation for School Exam Week or their public examinations. Students will also find topic lists on the department curriculum maps in the departmental pages on the school website. These might act as a useful reminder of the topics that have been covered so far this year.
- We would also encourage students to contact their friends of an evening to find out the topics that have been worked on during the day. Please be assured that staff will assist with any other catch up that is needed upon return to school.

However, as per yesterday's letter, students should not worry about missing work but concentrate on getting better.

Staff will not be sending individual work home at present. We anticipate that self-isolation numbers will grow in the coming weeks and staff do not have the capacity at the moment to create individual work programmes. We have to consider that staff may, at some point, also need to self-isolate and may not be in school themselves.

Work during a closure for deep cleaning or during a Government school closure notice:

As previously notified to parents, staff have prepared work for classes or year groups in the event of a short deep clean, or longer-term school closure. This will be available to download via the website. If the School is given notice ahead of any closure, students will be sent home with a copy of this work and their books. All students should now be following the advice given in my letter of 12th March and be starting to clear their lockers and keeping more things at home. The letter of 12th March is available on the website.

Staying in touch and up-to-date:

We are aware of the constant stream of messages and updates but feel that in the current climate it is important to ensure that parents and students have up-to-date information. Please ensure that we have the most suitable email addresses and contact numbers for family members. All updates are posted on the website so please check that regularly too.

School trips and planned activities:

All School trips and planned activities are under constant review as part of our risk assessment and contingency planning. Despite government advice on international trips and visits to venues such as theatres, it remains advice and not statute and as such, we remain in constant communication with the operators and providers regarding cancellation processes and insurance details. Parents and students involved in individual trips and activities will be updated separately and those letters will then be published on the website.

School sports fixtures:

With effect from today **all** school sports fixtures are postponed until further notice. School based sports clubs (lunchtime/after school) are not currently affected.

Hygiene, cleaning and handwashing:

We are constantly reinforcing the public health messages of “catch it, bin it, kill it” and increased, prolonged (at least 20 seconds) handwashing. Students should be washing their hands with hot water and soap more often and at least:

- Before leaving home
- On arrival at school
- After using the toilet
- After breaks and sporting activities
- Before food preparation
- Before eating any food, including snacks
- Before leaving school

For several weeks now, we have adapted the school cleaning schedule to ensure that high use areas are cleaned appropriately and will continue to do this.

Public examinations and planned exam moderations:

The examination boards, Ofqual and the Joint Council For Qualifications are all advising students to continue to expect their public examinations and moderations as published on their examination timetables. All boards are contingency planning and students should not be worried or anxious about media coverage they see about what may or may not happen. As soon as official decisions are made, we will share them with students and put whatever measures and arrangements are necessary in place. Students are to continue to focus their attention on preparing for the summer exams.

School operations if staffing is affected:

Whilst schools are operating under the Government directive to remain open, we have to accept that normal operations may become increasingly difficult if we face high levels of staff absence. It may become necessary to consolidate classes or consider partial/complete closure of the School. This will only occur as a last resort. In the event of partial closure, we will prioritise examination classes remaining in lessons.

Vulnerable students:

We have been closely monitoring the needs and well-being of students with medical related conditions that may make them more vulnerable to this infection. In the light of strengthened advice from the Government yesterday, we will be contacting parents and students over the next few days to update their medical plans and discuss individual cases.

Both the national and international picture is changing daily, at some points, hourly, and that can be unnerving. We continue to work to reassure our students and know that you, as parents, do the same. Thank you for your continued ongoing vigilance and support during these challenging times. We remain committed as ever, to responding to Government advice appropriately and responsibly whilst supporting our students with their learning.

Yours sincerely



M K Anderson
Headmistress