



# Spalding High School

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**Headmistress** Mrs M Anderson B.Ed

12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear parents, carers and students

As you are aware from the media this evening, the Government has decided not to close schools at this stage however, the national and international position with regards to coronavirus Covid-19 continues to change rapidly and I thought it best to update you on the current and planned position of the High School. Please be assured of our commitment to take the most appropriate course of action in order to safeguard the wellbeing of students and staff and to ensure their continued access to education. We are holding regular meetings and consultations to review, process and reconcile the ongoing and frequently updated information from a variety of sources including PHE and the DfE as part of our contingency planning.

We continue to implement the public health and hygiene advice given by Public Health England, whilst also taking additional measures in school to reduce the potential risk of infection.

We are using this letter to cover a variety of important messages and so please either keep it safe or print a copy off.

## **Year 11 and Y13 public examinations in the summer:**

The examination boards, Ofqual and the Joint Council For Qualifications are all advising students to continue to expect their public examinations as published on their examination timetables. They have also advised that they have contingency plans in place for a variety of eventualities, including an event such as this. We support this message and have advised examination groups not to be anxious or worried but to continue to focus their attention on preparing for the summer exams. Students should not procrastinate over their revision and preparation. At the moment we are continuing to plan for the Y11 and Y13 Easter revision classes to take place during the first week of the Easter holidays. Details of these will be sent home shortly. In the event of a school closure notice, we would intend to run these in the May half term instead.

## **In the event of the government issuing a school closure notice:**

The school has planned for a number of eventualities, including a school closure notice. We intend to communicate with students and parents via the homepage of the school website and the Intouch email system. Please ensure that we have the correct email contact for you. Work for each year group will be available via a downloadable document from the school website and the VLE (for some subjects). If schools are closed by the government, our students should check their school email system daily as their teachers may be communicating with them directly or providing assistance/support as they will be working from home too.

We would encourage all students to keep a bag in their lockers (for the foreseeable future) that would be big enough for them to take home all their books etc. at short notice. Students do not need to take everything home with them at this point, as the work we will be issuing does not necessarily rely upon students having their books/textbooks at home. Year 11 and Year 13 should consider taking more books home with them than usual as their books and textbooks will be useful to have at home for revision in the case of a school closure. We will be telling **all** students to clear their lockers and take everything home with them at Easter. This is a “just in case” measure; we do not have any additional information for you regarding any government plans.

**The School website curriculum and department pages:**

These all have the curriculum maps for every subject and key stage and so parents and students can see the context of the work that will be set. At Key Stage 4 and 5, there are also hyperlinks to the appropriate examination boards and syllabi that we follow. Many of these have past papers and mark schemes that will be familiar to our examination group students and are a high utility revision strategy for Year 11 and Y13 students in particular.

**Handwashing, sanitiser and coughs and sneezes:**

Just as with the rest of the country, our supply of alcohol based hand sanitiser is running low and we are unable at this point to restock due to the national shortage. As of Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March, we will be moving to an emphasis of frequent handwashing with hot water and soap as per the attached PHE public hygiene poster. Students should take care as the water can get hot very quickly as it has to be set at a certain temperature for legionella prevention. Hand sanitiser will still be available at reception for visitors until we run out.

For the moment at least, we still have a good supply of tissues and are proactively promoting the “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.” message.

**Trips, fixtures, work experience and school events:**

At the moment we continue to risk assess for each activity and follow Local Authority and government advice. Please be assured that we will continue to inform parents, carers and students if individual trips, fixtures or events are cancelled or postponed.

The Government has also strengthened their advice on self-isolation and anyone showing even the mildest of symptoms should self-isolate for seven days.

We would ask parents/carers to continue to be vigilant with regards to their child’s health and to follow the PHE and NHS advice if they are concerned that they are displaying the symptoms of coronavirus, Covid-19. If in doubt, call NHS 111 and do not send your child to school.

As parents/carers, you know that many of our children are worried and anxious about the current situation. We continue to reassure them in school and will, as I said at the start of this letter, continue to monitor the situation very closely, follow the advice of the appropriate authorities and respond accordingly.

Yours sincerely



M K Anderson  
Headmistress