

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Monday 16 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Coronavirus – Update

We continue to follow HM Government and Public Health England advice in respect of delaying the spread of Coronavirus; this is challenging for all of us, as the advice seems to change almost daily. Many of you will have seen the television news this evening and the latest advice which includes advice about whole families self-isolating for fourteen days if one person has symptoms. Similarly, advice to avoid pubs, theatres, restaurants, travel and to work at home where possible. The advice in respect of schools and colleges is that they should remain open, but the Prime Minister has indicated every option is under review.

In light of today's advice, we have taken the decision to cancel the following events:

Wednesday 18 March	Year 9 Parent/Carers Consultation Event
Tuesday 24 March	Year 8 [New Intake] Pupils Information Evening
Wednesday 1 April	Year 11 Parent/Carers Consultation Event

From tomorrow, we will not be holding year group assemblies; instead class assemblies will take place. Any remaining inter-school sports fixtures will cease at the end of this week until the *crisis* which the Coronavirus represents passes. We have introduced systematic handwashing by all pupils twice daily and encouraging pupils/students to wash their hands at other times too. We are adding other measures to keep people as safe as possible.

The Chief Medical Officer, Chris Whitty, has stated that school closures were not necessary at present, but could be implemented “at the right time, in the right way, at the right stage” of the outbreak; staff are currently planning as to how we operate on a distant-learning basis, when this happens.

At the moment there is no information in respect of this summer's public examinations.

We know that in light of today's announcements that we are likely to have fewer students and staff in school and college tomorrow. For example, where whole families need to isolate for fourteen days. We are aware that we have some students who fall into vulnerable groups who need to protect themselves and, also staff who have family members who are ill for example.

We are in uncharted waters; we would encourage parents/carers to follow the latest advice to protect themselves. We are not qualified to offer advice in individual situations as to whether your child should be in school or at college but would encourage you to follow the latest advice. In cases where your family is self-isolating schools and colleges have been told to use an absence code exceptional other. **Please notify the school/college by email if your child is self-isolating so that this can be correctly recorded.** We will continue to send you updates as the situation develops including using a FAQ approach, rather than answering individual enquiries.

Yours sincerely

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
Wootton Upper School & Arts College
Kimberley 16-19 STEM College
Registered in England and Wales
Company No. 7740758

Wootton Academy Trust
Hall End Road, Wootton
Bedford, MK43 9HT.
01234 767123
Email: wootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk
www.woottonupper.co.uk
www.kimberleycollege.co.uk