

13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Following the Government COBRA meeting yesterday the Prime Minister has announced that the UK is moving out of the Containment phase and into Delay, in reaction to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We are responding to Government guidelines closely and continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis. In line with the latest advice, for the most part we are planning to continue with the scheduled school programme of activities at this point, although trips planned for next holiday have been cancelled and Community Service on Monday afternoon will not take place. Should Government advice change, we will of course review this position accordingly.

On 26<sup>th</sup> February we wrote that:

*'... if you are due to be travelling over the Easter break, especially with those taking GCSE and A level exams in the summer, please do keep in mind that quarantine advice could alter and that we will have to implement government recommendations as the situation develops.'*

It is clear that the situation is now moving to a more dynamic stage. For those with public exams next term (GCSE, A level, Pre-U) it is important that you weigh up any decision to take your son or daughter out of the UK over the holiday period because there is a possibility, however remote, that they may not be able to return, or they may be placed in quarantine on their return by the UK government. This could have an impact on their ability to attend public examination sessions. I am afraid that were this to occur Canford cannot accept responsibility or liability for any pupil missing an examination session and any consequential impact on their grade outcomes. We would of course seek to liaise with any examination board to support a pupil's case as far as we are able.

We would ensure that they have work to continue their studies at home and any revision materials will be available.

While we continue to follow PHE advice, and we do not want to raise unnecessary alarms, we hope that you will understand that it is impossible to know how the situation will unfold and obviously much of this is beyond our control.

I have also set out below an email which went to day parents yesterday but also applies to boarders who are going out this weekend:

Dear Parents,

A change in guidance from the Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England this afternoon states that if any individual has a high temperature or a new continuous cough then they must stay at home and self-isolate for 7 days. In view of this we request that you do not send your child into school if they have either of these symptoms.

There is no requirement to contact NHS 111 to tell them you are staying at home and there will be no testing of those individuals self-isolating with mild symptoms.

Individuals with symptoms are asked not to attend a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

If you do have any concerns or queries, then please ring the Health Centre for advice.

See below link for further information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Please be aware that while some pupils are now absent from school due to illness, we do not have any confirmed cases of COVID-19 and we would let you know immediately if we became aware of such a situation. Any absences at present are a precaution in response to Government guidelines.'

Obviously the advice given above applies to us all, as well as the pupils, and your co-operation with this would be much appreciated.

Thank you for your patience and support at this challenging time.

Kind regards,

Richard Salmon  
Assistant Head (Pupils)