

16 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Update – 16/3/2020

Non-Essential Contact

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister this afternoon outlining that all non-essential contact should be avoided, the College Leadership Team have met and agreed that St Dunstan's will now seek to actively limit any event that entails non-essential contact between our pupils, staff and those outside the College, including meetings of parents. As such, the following events between now and the end of this term will be cancelled:

1. Legally Blonde
2. Year 12 Parents' Evening
3. Junior School Parents' Evenings
4. External Marketing Events
5. Fundraising Launch Event
6. Diploma Graduation Ceremony
7. All sporting fixtures and events
8. All school trips
9. Year 3 Art Exhibition and Showcase
10. Saturday detentions
11. Year 5 Space Exhibition and Rocket Launch
12. Year 5 Sex and Relationships DVD Parent Preview

The impact of these cancellations is likely to be a source of considerable challenge for pupils and parents. It is with this in mind that we will enact the following measures:

1. An internal performance (for pupils only) of Legally Blonde, which will be video recorded and available for friends and family of those involved in the show.
2. Phone conversations for parents can be scheduled with subject teachers and form teachers (Junior School only) at parental request, when a parents' evening has had to be cancelled (this cannot be guaranteed to be the evening as scheduled).

Mandated shut-down planning – Resources and Request to Year 12

We continue to make strides with our planning for a mandated school shut down. Pupils are being trained this week and I share with you the documentation that we are providing to them – guidance for Firefly and Microsoft Teams. We now feel that it is necessary to undertake a robust pupil trial of our remote learning strategy, and it is with this in mind that I

am requesting all Year 12 students remain at home on Wednesday to help us trial the system. They will have Periods 1-4 run through Microsoft Teams. We will then host a series of feedback sessions during Tutor Time at 1430. Tomorrow, we will be sending out a more detailed communication to all parents in the Senior School, specifically about preparing your child for remote learning.

Parental decisions to not to send children to school

I am aware that a small number of you are opting to keep your children away from the College.

Our current position is that we are continuing to follow PHE advice, along with the vast majority of other schools in the country, and therefore we remain open. If the decision comes from government to mandate a school shut-down, we will at that point mobilise a phase of remote learning. Until this time, pupils who are staying at home by choice, or as a precautionary measure, will have absence authorised by us and will be supported as in any routine authorised absence; in this way, children can catch up on homework through Firefly and email teachers directly to catch up on other work they miss (Senior School only). In the Junior School, parents can email form teachers to receive any missed work.

I do understand the complexity of the current challenge and that decision making in such circumstances is unlikely to be straightforward or agreed by all, and would therefore support your decision to do what you consider best for your family.

Junior School

Following a successful training session with the Junior School staff on Friday, we would like to take the opportunity to remind you that there will be a parent presentation on Wednesday 18 March, beginning at 1600, to outline how remote learning will take place in a Junior School context. In order to make this as meaningful to your child's age group as possible, these will be taking place in year groups. Miss Whitwood and Mr Murphy will be there to direct you to the correct classroom, but we would be grateful if you could ensure you make your way to the Prep playground at 1600. For those parents who are unable to attend, the presentation and step by step instructions of how to access tasks, lessons and resources on Firefly and Microsoft Teams will be emailed to all parents afterwards. There will be the option of a technical question and answer session with Mr Murphy afterwards (on a drop-in basis), should you have specific questions to ask. Mr Coley (JS ICT Coordinator) has now completed all pupil training for Prep pupils and Years 1 & 2 training will be complete by Wednesday. Form Teachers will also be using Form Time tomorrow and Wednesday to explain how the daily routine will be set out and where to find resources, should teaching and learning need to take place remotely. We consider this to be an essential meeting in order that parents are able to fully support pupils to access their lessons remotely.

St Dunstan's Community

A small number of pupils are now off school with mild cough and/or fever as a precautionary measure, following last week's updated advice that anyone with these symptoms should remain at home for 7 days. In this vein, we also now have three Senior

School staff members at home in self-isolation for 7 days. We continue to have no community members with a confirmed coronavirus diagnosis.

The College continues to be cleaned regularly throughout the day, with a focus on frequently used areas such as door handles and hand rails and we are regularly replenishing soap supplies. We will also be removing the self-service elements of the lunch service from tomorrow, to reduce risks of cross contamination.

Public Health England Latest Update

Public Health England has updated its advice this evening to state that **all** members of a household must stay in self-isolation for 14 days if any single member of the household has either a persistent cough or a temperature of over 37.8 degrees. This will undoubtedly affect a comparatively larger number of the St Dunstan's community, particularly given the prevalence of a wide range of respiratory illness such as colds at this time of year. All the same, we do ask for your full support in implementing these measures; please do not send your child to school if they or anyone else in your household have a persistent cough or fever.

With continued thanks for your support during this more challenging time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N P Hewlett', written in a cursive style.

Mr N P Hewlett
Headmaster