



Leventhorpe
a business and enterprise academy

Coronavirus Update for Parents and Carers: 18th March 2020 2pm

Temporary Suspension of Lessons in Year 9 on Thursday 19th March

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you today to explain our position on partial closure for tomorrow, Thursday. Our staff levels have not worsened critically today and so tomorrow we can open with only one year group closed; this will be **Year 9**. Year 12 students should come back into school tomorrow, Thursday, for normal lessons. All other year groups will be open as usual on Thursday.

We will set work for Year 9 tomorrow on Show My Homework, so do please have a look at what your child has been set if they are in Year 9.

We will operate a rotation system like this in the days ahead when we are forced to partially closed, so that the impact on students' education is spread more evenly. However, we would avoid closure for Year 11 and 13 due to the closeness of their examinations. We will inform you at the same time tomorrow about whether a partial closure is necessary for Friday.

Year 10 students who have missed examinations due to self-isolation

A small proportion of students in Year 10 have been forced to miss their mocks due to family self-isolation and parents have asked about this.

In response, we would state that the mock exams are an internal assessment and do not affect the real GCSE and so there is no need for anxiety. Next week we will run a number of catch-up slots for students if they can return from isolation. We have also taken steps to arrange for the exam papers to be set and answered online for those students who are still isolating when we get close to Easter.

We would like to be clear that we cannot operate a partial system in Year 10 where pupils take mock exams and then leave during lessons. The national position from the government is that children should attend schools as normal – provided the school is able to open or partially open. Therefore, Year 10 pupils should not attend at all if they need to self-isolate or attend all day if they are healthy and not family isolating.

Symptoms in children and within the family – self-isolation

We would like to repeat this important message about reducing the spread of the virus through self-isolation:

Public Health England have changed their advice to all members of the public that they should self-isolate for a period of at least 14 days should they show the symptoms of a fever/high temperature and/or a new persistent cough **or** if these symptoms are shown by people who live in their home. With this in mind, we urge all parents/carers to keep their children away from school for 14 days if they are concerned that their child might be displaying these symptoms **or** if anyone in their household has. We recognise that this may represent a much higher proportion of children than earlier guidance.

Refunds on cancelled trips

We have secured a full refund for parents and carers of Year 8 who paid for the Warner Brothers Trips and our finance team will be making refund payments through Parentpay shortly. From Parentpay, there are options to add this to the dinner money account or refund to a payment card.

Overseas trips may take longer to achieve refund, but we will transfer funds back to parents as soon as we can. At the moment Foreign Office travel bands are only in place until the end of March and so trips after March are not officially banded yet, which will delay insurance pay outs

Further information

We would like to remind you to look regularly at the government's advice on these matters, as this will include the most up to date guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Thank you for your understanding on this matter and your support in this time of national difficulty

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm White
Headteacher