

Principal: Emma Robins



18 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to you again with an update on our response to the Coronavirus outbreak. We are continuing to follow government guidance for schools, which currently directs us to remain open. New guidance yesterday regarding staying at home was as follows:

- In a household, if anyone has coronavirus symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough) they should stay at home for 14 days. This also applies to anyone else living in that household.
- Everyone should minimise social mixing in the community
- It is expected that by the end of the week all 'at risk' people will be directed to stay at home for a period of 12 weeks. This includes everyone over 70, pregnant women and anyone with an underlying health condition.

Further information is available here:

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

I would ask that you refer to this guidance in deciding whether or not your child should attend school. Please continue to inform the Attendance Office of any absence. If your child is self-isolating their absence will be authorised as an exceptional circumstance.

Graham School will remain open as directed by the government. However, this is only possible whilst we have sufficient staff to ensure the safety of all children and is likely to change. We already have a number of staff who are required to stay at home, unfortunately this now means we will need to operate with reduced year groups.

**As of tomorrow, Thursday 19 March, students in Year 9 and 10 should not attend school. School will remain open to students in Years 7,8, and 11.**

The return date for Y9 and Y10 will be after Easter on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020. For the period 19<sup>th</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April inclusive, children in Y9 and Y10 who are in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to collect a grab bag from school between 1:00 and 1:30 pm each day – if you wish to take up this opportunity, please ask your child to wait outside the school Hall, by the Hall fire exit and they will be able to pick this up. If the DFE change how we are to support pupils with Free School Meals we will write again.

We will let you know immediately of any further closures to specific year groups. Please check our website and FaceBook / Twitter for regular updates.

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Any students who are not at school will have access to learning resources through our web site. The attached document outlines how to access these materials. Students can also continue to access the online sites which we routinely use such as Sam Learning and Hegarty maths.

As per current Government policy we are all asked to maintain social distancing; as such Y9 and Y10 students should limit any social activity in the time they are not in school and ideally remain at home.

I appreciate this may be difficult for parents and thank you for your support in these trying times.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Robins', is enclosed in a thin black rectangular box.

**Emma Robins**

Principal | Graham School