

17 March 2020

Dear Parent

Coronavirus Update

As you know, the Government advice regarding Coronavirus changed yesterday as follows:

- If anyone in your household has symptoms of Coronavirus, then all in the household are to stay at home for 14 days. Please notify Helen.Clarke@colchesterhighschool.co.uk as soon as possible if this affects your child.
- People who may be particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 including those who are pregnant, over 70 or have underlying health conditions are advised to self-isolate.
- The Government are also advising that social contact be minimised and unnecessary travel be eliminated. Therefore, it is likely that most trips or activities outside school will be cancelled, as well as events involving parents or third parties coming into school. You will receive further information about these in due course.

These measures will make operating our school very challenging as many staff and pupils may now need to self-isolate. We are evaluating the impact on the day-to-day running of the school and may have to aggregate classes and similar measures in order to continue. As the pandemic develops, it seems likely that the Government will shortly take the action of closing schools soon as other governments have across Europe.

We have been reluctant to deviate from Government policy but are now considering whether it might be better to effect an early and smooth transition to remote and online learning for your children rather than wait for a potentially sudden shutdown. Your opinion as parents is important and Cognita will be sending a short all parent survey to you today to capture this.

Please be assured that regardless of the outcome we will maintain as high a standard of education as possible for your children, whether in the classroom or through adopting our remote and online learning protocol.

We hope that you and your family stay safe and well during these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely

David Young

Headteacher