

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Preparing for COVID-19**

As you will be aware, the situation with regards to COVID-19 is changing almost on a daily basis. I appreciate that this is of concern to many people and I wanted to assure you that everything is being done across our schools to ensure we are well-placed for whatever happens.

The safety and wellbeing of students and staff remains our highest priority and we continue to follow all relevant guidance and direction from government.

Our schools will remain open, wherever possible, until we are directed by government to do otherwise. If staff absences rise due to increased self-isolation, we may need to follow different procedures – as, for example we do on ‘snow days’ – but our intention is to keep our schools open so that children can continue learning and parents can continue working.

Whilst all our schools remain open as normal at present, we are also finalising our planning for what we will put in place if they do need to close temporarily. As a group of schools we are able to develop, access and share a wide range of curriculum materials and online lessons that will be made available to our students so that each is able to continue their learning. When necessary, you will receive confirmation from the school about how this will operate and there will be a variety of ways of ensuring your child is able to access all the relevant learning materials.

It may be that, going forward, schools are able to remain open for certain categories of children including, for example, those of key workers. Once again, you will be given appropriate information as and when we have certainty from government.

These are unprecedented times and I am grateful for the hard work and expertise of the leadership teams and staff across each of our schools. They have the students’ best interests at heart and will be doing everything they can – in whatever circumstances we are in – to ensure a continuity and consistency in education for your child.

We talk a great deal about the importance of a strong partnership between schools and parents; at times like these, this really comes to the fore. Thank you for your support and assistance in the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely



Sir Jon Coles  
Chief Executive

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