



The Crossley Heath School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to update you on the current Covid-19 situation and the steps we are taking to ensure continuity of education for students.

We continue to follow DfE and Public Health England guidance on hygiene and cleaning. The guidance is that schools should remain open.

Government advice is that if any member of your household has a new persistent cough or temperature above 37.8 degrees, your household should self-isolate.

I include, for your reference, information from the Public Health England guidance;

- *if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for **7 days** from when your symptoms started. If you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill*
- *it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community*
- *for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period.*

Included with this letter:

- Latest government advice and guidance for reference
- The Crossley Heath Home Study Procedures

For those children who are not attending school, we will email generic work activities to parents. Whilst the school is still open, our teachers are delivering their lessons and are further preparing work for possible future closure. Consequently, specific work for individuals cannot be set.

Absence for children who are self-isolating is authorised in line with government guidelines.

As you can imagine, we are receiving an increasing number of calls and emails relating to Covid-19. Can I ask that you please:

- Follow the Government advice.
- Check our website regularly.
- **Do not send your child to school if they have a continuous cough or a high temperature.** This is to ensure that our Health Care Assistant and pastoral staff can continue to work effectively for the benefit of all students whilst the school stays open.
- Avoid contacting us with general queries about Covid-19, government policy or the government's advice in relation to Covid -19.

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The school has made a number of changes to ensure we have contingencies should the number of children or staff isolating continue to rise. This is being monitored very closely and appropriate action will be taken if necessary.

We have postponed/cancelled all non-curriculum events and are limiting visitors to school. Accordingly, meetings between staff and parents will now take place by phone except in exceptional circumstances. All non-essential internal meetings have been restricted in order to ensure that we have capacity to cover staff absence. Please note that if staff absence rises, we will not be able to guarantee subject specialist cover for classes. We will prioritise specialist cover for Y11 and Y13 groups.

GCSE & A level examinations

The current position from Ofqual and the Awarding Bodies (exam boards) is that schools and students should continue to prepare as normal for the examinations. Ofqual has said:

"Our overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum." Ofqual guidance states that if exams are 'seriously disrupted', the Awarding Bodies should establish a contingency plan and guidance for schools. At present, the Awarding Bodies have not provided details of their plans. I include, for your reference, AQA's latest statement:

"We appreciate that you may be concerned about the possible impact of the coronavirus on the summer 2020 exam series. We'd like to reassure you that we're working with Ofqual and the other exam boards to manage any risks to this summer's exams. Our current advice is for everyone to continue to prepare for exams as normal".

Whilst the Awarding Body 'windows' for Modern Foreign Languages Speaking exams and Art exams have not been changed, we are making contingency plans for moving the dates of these exams within the window, should this be necessary. We will provide further information in due course.

In the event of a school closure or partial closure, parents will be informed as soon as practicable and we advise that you check our website for information regularly.

Our priority is the best possible continuity of education for all our students and work and revision resources will be supplied in order for them to study at home. Full details of the procedures for home study are in the attached document. At the time of any closure, you will be provided with guidance about how to support your child's learning at home.

We are also committed to ensuring that all students remain safe and well supported. Our pastoral and SEN teams will be communicating with the parents and carers of our most vulnerable students in order to check on their progress and wellbeing.

If you have a serious concern about a student's welfare or safety, it can easily be reported using the green "worried" button at the bottom of the homepage of the school's website. The Designated Safeguarding Lead can be contacted on 07789 440603 for any urgent issues.

Yours sincerely

Lynnette Cassidy
Head Teacher