

Friday 13 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

COVID-19 outbreak

As parents and carers I am sure that you are concerned about the current COVID-19 outbreak and its potential impact on your child's health and education and I am writing to update you on the latest position at St John Bosco College.

As a school we are continuing to monitor the situation closely and follow advice from the Government and Health Protection Agencies. As of today, we have had no reported, confirmed cases of the illness in school. Should that situation change we will inform parents of any measures taken as a result.

If you are concerned that your child might have symptoms of the virus please check the Public Health England guidance that was issued yesterday when making a decision about whether or not to send them in to school. Further details of this advice can be found [here](#).

We are continuing to promote good hygiene messages to students to ensure that the risk of spread of infection is minimised. Please do reinforce these messages with your child and ensure that they have tissues and hand sanitiser with them.

You may have heard in the news that there are currently no plans to close schools. I have this morning attended an event at which the Secretary of State for Education reiterated that message. It is clear, however, that school closures do remain a possibility in the coming weeks and we are making plans to ensure that we minimise the disruption to your child's learning if this happens.

I would ask for your support in helping us to prepare for this possibility by keeping in close communication with the school by checking our website and ParentMail messages. I would also urge you to ensure that your child is able to access the online learning that we are providing for all students.

Distance Learning

All St John Bosco College students have full access to the Microsoft Office suite of software which can be downloaded and used on computers, laptops, tablets and mobile phones. They can access this by logging in to Office 365 using their school email and password.

Part of this suite includes *Microsoft Teams*. We already use this in school in some subject areas to support learning and in the event of school closure we will be using this platform to deliver daily content to all students and to communicate directly with them to answer questions and receive their work.

Please do discuss this with your child and make sure that they are able to access it. All students have will be given information about how to do this in school on Tuesday. If you have any technical questions or concerns please contact itsupport@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk.

If we have to close the school at any point in the future we will ensure that work for each of the timetabled lessons that your child has will be shared on that day and your child will be expected to log on and complete this work.

Public Examinations

I am aware that the uncertainty regarding public exams is a particular concern for parents of students in Years 11 and 13. The Secretary of State for Education this morning reiterated that students sitting GCSEs and A Levels this Summer will not be disadvantaged by the current situation. At this point the advice that we have received from the relevant agencies is to prepare as usual for the forthcoming exam season. Should this change we will update you as soon as we have new information.

INSET Day

Finally, a reminder that this Monday, 16 March 2020, is an INSET day and students are not attending school unless they have been invited to do so for a GCSE/A Level intervention session. I look forward to seeing your child back in school on Tuesday morning.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Dunne', written in a cursive style.

Paul Dunne
Headteacher