



Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parent,

Re: Covid-19 – Latest Developments and Cancellations

The school continues to keep abreast of the rapidly changing picture in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic and is grateful to families for their swift action in self-isolating for 14 days where anyone in the household has symptoms of the Coronavirus.

As per the latest government guidance, please also note that:

- 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 is also advising that non-essential social contact be minimised and unnecessary travel be eliminated.

As a result of this, *all trips and activities outside of school for this week* will be cancelled, as well as *all extra-curricular activities and events involving parents or third parties coming into school*.

To clarify, these are as follows:

- all extra-curricular lunchtime and afterschool activities (with immediate effect);
- all Sports Afternoons at Leeds Road (this afternoon and Thursday 19th March);
- all swimming lessons and events;
- all sports fixtures;
- the Early Years and Pre-Prep Parents' Evening (Thursday 19th March);
- the Early Years Mothers' Day Afternoon (Friday 20th March).

Should your child normally attend the Afterschool Club or participate in extra-curricular activities after school, *you may wish to collect your child at the end of the normal school day at this time*. Should you be unable to make collection, please confirm this by contacting my PA, Hayley Kelly, as soon as possible. Mrs Kelly can be reached at hkelly@huddersfield-grammar.co.uk or via the school telephone number.

Should you confirm via contact with Mrs Kelly that you are unable to collect your child at the end of any, or all, school days this week, please do be reassured that the school will make provision to supervise children who would normally participate in the Afterschool Club or extra-curricular activities at this time, and until further notice. Those parents who need to collect children at this later time should do so by ringing the doorbell outside the Waverley Building, at which point your child will be brought to you for collection.



As we move forward together, I would respectfully ask all parents entering Royds Mount and the St David's Building *to make use of the hand sanitiser dispensers at their entrances* before entering these buildings.

If you are an Early Years and Pre-Prep parent, please ensure that you *drop your children off at the classroom door at this time* for their collection by teaching, rather than congregating in classrooms.

Clearly, the escalation of government advice in relation to Covid-19 will making operating Huddersfield Grammar School very challenging, as multiple staff and pupils may now need to self-isolate. We are continuing to evaluate the impact upon the day-to-day running of the school and may have to aggregate classes and apply other measures in order to continue our daily operations.

As the pandemic develops, it now seems likely that the Government will shortly take the action of closing schools, as other governments already have across Europe. Whilst we are reluctant to deviate from Government policy, we are now considering whether it might be better to affect an early and smooth transition to the Remote and Online Learning phases of our contingency planning, rather than wait for a potentially sudden shutdown.

Your opinion as parents is very important to us. As a result, Cognita will today be sending out a Parent Survey to you to capture your views at this unprecedented time. Please be reassured 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 the Remote and Online Learning Protocol that has already been carefully worked through with teaching staff in school, details of which will be shared with you at the appropriate time.

My thoughts are with all members of our school community at this time and I hope that you and your family stay safe and well at this difficult time for us all.

With warmest wishes,



Mr M Seaton
Headmaster

mseaton@huddersfield-grammar.co.uk