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**THE HART
SCHOOL**
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DRE/JRU/SPO
18 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 update

Unsurprisingly, the situation regarding COVID-19 is changing rapidly. Following the Prime Minister's update on Monday evening, we have an increasing number of staff and students who have been advised to stay at home and self-isolate. As per government guidelines, those staff and students will be absent from school for the next 14 days.

We are at present able to cover classes, but this may change as staff absences will also affect our capacity to provide a good level of education. There are several steps that can be taken before moving to a full school closure and be assured we will only close as a last resort or following direction from the government.

In the event of a full closure, we may continue to operate a skeleton staff in school. This will obviously depend on the latest government advice and we will keep you informed of any decision we make. This will allow us to supervise the children of emergency service/NHS workers if required. If you work in these sectors, please let the school know. We are in the process of developing an online curriculum for all students to enable continued learning at home. Students will still have contact with teaching staff to support this via their school email accounts.

We are still receiving requests for advice over whether children should self-isolate. We can only refer you to the NHS advice that we sent out and ask you to use the advice given by the Prime Minister and his scientific advisers on Monday. It is also important to follow the information given by the government in their daily briefings where guidance is subject to change.

At the moment, the recommended period for self-isolation for those who live with other people has increased to 14 days. Our normal policy of attendance has not changed and we expect students, where possible, to attend as usual. However, we completely understand that these are exceptional times and have great empathy with you as parents and carers in making tough decisions. Should you need any guidance from the school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

It is important that we continue to remind children about the crucial importance of hand hygiene. In the event of a student self-isolating prior to a full closure, we will provide learning packs, tailored to relevant year groups.

We hope that this information has been helpful and will continue to update you as the week continues.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Redmond
Pastoral Standards Lead