



St Michael's Catholic College

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Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran

Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed

Vice Principal: Ms Kathleen Faherty

17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Important Update 17.03.20

The government has made further changes to the guidance issued to the public about measures to combat Covid-19 in relation to households with symptoms and stringent social distancing measures. Due to the impact this new advice has had on college staffing it is not operationally possible to run the college safely and we will now need to move to Option 2 of our contingency plan which unfortunately necessitates partial closure.

Therefore, from **18th March** the college **will only be open** to:

Students in Years **7, 8, 11 and 13**

Any students whose parents work in the NHS/emergency services in **Year 9**

Parents who work in the NHS or for the emergency services have already been asked to contact Mrs V. Ferguson (PA to the Headteacher) by phone or email via contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk as soon as possible stating where they work so we can plan for them to be in college.

Students in Year **9, 10 and 12** will need to **remain at home** until you are advised that they can return to college.

During this partial closure work will be set for all students in Years 9, 10 and 12 remotely using the Google classroom facility, all students are familiar with this and have been shown how to access their virtual classrooms. All classes have a Google classroom set up for each of their subjects where they will be able to access the work set and submit a response as instructed. All students in Years 9, 10 and 12 are expected to complete all of the work set which will be monitored by Heads of Department and Leaders of Learning. Parents will be contacted if their child does not meet these expectations.

Please note that it may be necessary to send other year groups home as the situation in relation to Covid-19 changes over the coming days/weeks and parents will always be notified of any changes as soon as possible via Edulink and the college website.

Unfortunately, we have found ourselves in this situation because we cannot follow all of the government's guidance **AND** keep our students, staff and families safe. Partially closing the college is not a decision I have taken lightly and I am truly sorry for any inconvenience this may cause to parents and carers.



Thank you for your continued support at this complex time.

Yours faithfully,



Ms F Corcoran
Principal

Government Guidance Covid- 19 – Update 17.03.20

New guidance for households with Symptoms

- If you live with others and **you or another member of the household** 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.

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Stringent Social distancing measures to now be followed by

- Pregnant women
- People with health issues that place them at increased risk of severe illness

Social distancing guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

All parents/carers are reminded that in order to keep our community safe everyone must act responsibly. Students who have been sent home from college and/or have been advised to self-isolate for 14 days should stay inside and follow social distancing guidelines set out by the government.