

Schoolcomms: 16.03.20

Dear Parents / Carers,

As the coronavirus situation continues to quickly evolve and now that we have a few more cases of students and staff who are self-isolating this week, we wanted to take the opportunity to update you on what the school is doing to respond to the situation and also to give you some guidance as to what you can expect from staff should your child need to self-isolate over the coming days and weeks. N.B. As yet we still do not have any confirmed cases of Covid19 amongst our student or staff body to our knowledge.

As you will be aware from our communication on Thursday, at the current time schools remain open as normal with no changes to daily routines expected. This goes for assemblies, parents' evenings (including Y10 next week) and extra-curricular events etc. which will run as normal. However, we are of course aware that government guidance may change at a moment's notice and will advise you if and when things change or if we need to cancel any events.

We have also increased checks for soap and sanitiser around school as part of our raised awareness of the importance of good hygiene, including reminding students about the need for regular, thorough hand washing, and have also increased routine cleaning of common touch points such as door handles and thumb print machines for purchasing food.

One additional change we are making from tomorrow, to support students in washing their hands before having lunch, is to bring lunchtime forward by 5 minutes each day, to enable more students to do this before getting into their lunch queue. We do also have hand sanitisers available outside the food halls and near thumb print machines, but would also encourage students to bring in their own hand sanitisers, if you are able to get hold of these. Please be reassured that no one will be sent back to lessons without having had chance to eat lunch if they are late because of needing to wash their hands and we will monitor this situation closely.

With regards to students who are self-isolating, as the school remains fully open, our staff continue to have a full workload and so please be aware that it will not be possible for staff to provide additional / individual work for students, nor to provide individual online / email support at this time. However, we have asked staff to upload their lesson resources to Showbie each day wherever possible, along with homework to ClassCharts as usual, to enable students to try to keep up with missed work. Please do bear in mind that there will not always be an appropriate resource to upload and also that some students may struggle at home to complete tasks without the teacher input that their class would have had. In this case, we would point your son/daughter to other resources such as Hegarty Maths or online sources of education including BBC Bitesize, and will not impose sanctions for incomplete work due to self-isolation. N.B. Staff will prioritise Y11 and Y13 lessons for uploading resources.

We appreciate that this is not ideal, but would ask for your support and understanding with this approach in these unprecedented times. In the event of actual school closure, we will be in touch again with detailed guidance about what you can then expect from staff who will be working remotely.

We are very much in uncharted territory at the moment and are constantly checking government guidance as well as that of the NHS and the DfE and will be in touch with further updates and information as and when we get them.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Ilkley Grammar School