



Bexley Grammar School
Danson Lane, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BL
A Specialist Language College
and IB World School
Tel: 020 8304 8538

17th March 2020

Coronavirus - update

Dear Parents,

Following the first government briefing yesterday, I write again to ask for your support and understanding as we continue to operate in challenging circumstances.

If your child, or anyone in your family, shows symptoms, specifically **either a continuous cough or a high temperature (or both)** - then your family must self-isolate for **fourteen** days to protect others. This advice – 14 days self-isolation - applies to everyone in your family. Please see this link for guidance on isolation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Please continue to report any absence in the usual way by contacting the Attendance Office.

This advice for the public is updated regularly:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>.

In light of the additional measures outlined yesterday, we are, with great regret, **cancelling all school events** involving social contact beyond students and staff in school for the foreseeable future. Thus **the following events are cancelled** this side of Easter:

- This week: After school GCSE Drama performances (The performances will take place during the school day without an external audience.)
- Tuesday 17th March: Year 10 Parents' evening
- Monday 23rd March: Spring Music Concert
- Friday 27th March: PA Quiz Night
- Tuesday 31st March: Power Day
- Tuesday 31st March: Sixth Form Information Evening
- Tuesday 31st March: Bird College Music Festival (and earlier rehearsal)
- Wednesday 1st April: House Showcase

Please be patient as we organise refunds as needed and as we plan, in time, how or if we are able to reschedule or provide alternative means of access to information such as for the Information Evening.

We are also introducing further protective measures within school by **cancelling all assemblies, all trips and visits and any non-essential visitors to the school**. It remains unclear how far ahead we have to plan in terms of cancelling day trips and visits and as explained previously to those of you booked on overseas trips, we are treading very carefully and taking advice so as to minimise any financial penalties to parents and carers.

BGS remains open despite these challenging circumstances and your children's safety remains our top priority. We continue to receive daily guidance from the Department for Education and Public Health England and of course we all receive the government briefings now. We will alert you to any change in our status as soon as we receive such information.

Staff absence is likely to increase with the new self-isolation guidelines so it is possible that we may need to adopt our contingency plans for reduced staffing levels soon. This may include partial closures, where we are able to accept only specific year groups into school, giving priority to the upper school and public examination year groups. Please be assured that we have an existing online learning platform in Google Classroom which we will extend as appropriate for any partial or full school closure.

Public examination schedules for GCSE and IB remain in place and ensuring that Year 11 and Year 13 complete these examinations in a safe environment remains a top priority in our contingency plans.

I will continue to notify you via ParentMail (and the school website as appropriate) of any changes as they arrive.

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

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

Steve Elphick
Headteacher