



Monday 16 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **COVID-19 Update**

As the situation continues to change in relation to COVID-19 we would like to share with you our planning in relation to the updated government advice, and in relation to any future requirements for school closure.

We can assure you that at the time of writing we still have no reported confirmed cases of any pupil or staff member diagnosed with COVID-19 in any of the Venturers Trust academies. We are continuing to follow the advice of the UK Government and Public Health England and will not close unless directed to do so. As you may be aware from the recent government announcements, those suffering with even mild symptoms akin to those of coronavirus (persistent cough, fever) are self-isolating for 7 days. This may mean your child having to miss school; please do contact the school on the first day of absence if this is the case for your child. Please do note that at present the government is **not** requesting whole households to self-isolate if one member of the household has a persistent cough or a fever. At some stage in the future this advice may change and, should this be the case, we will be sure to update you.

We have spoken to the students about coronavirus and the importance of hand washing to keep themselves and others healthy.

We understand that you or your child may be feeling anxious about the impact of a possible future school closure on your child's learning, particularly if they are due to sit GCSEs or A Levels in the summer. Plans are in place to continue to support students and staff in the event of closure. These include:

- Regrouping students' classes to manage staff absences and ensure effective learning.
- Partial closure (the school opens part-time or for some year groups and not others) should we find ourselves in a position where we cannot safely and effectively run the school at full capacity because of staff absence in line with government guidance on self-isolation.
- Closure for a short period of time for a deep clean.
- Closure for longer period of time as directed by government recommendations.

Should we need to close the school, we will tell parents through our usual communication channels, advising both when the closure will take place and when children should return to school.

In the event of being directed to close, the school has plans in place to ensure pupils can access digital learning via Google Classroom.

### **How can you support your child(ren)?:**

If we close, we will ensure that the learning provided is a chance for children to consolidate what they have already been taught in school. However, depending on your child's age, you may need to explain the task. There will be a range of learning opportunities that encompass a broad curriculum.

**Whilst we are sharing the above, please be assured that there are no current indications that we will be closing.** Please continue to ensure that your child attends school as usual and follow the government advice if they become unwell.

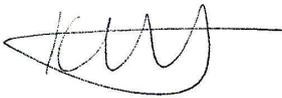
We may need to contact you prior to or during any period of school closure. It is vital that we have up-to date telephone numbers, addresses and email addresses for each of our families. If you are in any doubt as to whether we have the correct information, please contact the school by emailing us on [info@colstonsgirls.org](mailto:info@colstonsgirls.org) or by phoning the school office on 0117 9424328.

In the meantime, links to the school website and the Department of Education helpline are provided below.

A separate letter will be sent to the parents of all students who have places on foreign trips tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued support of your child and of our school during this unusual time.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Kerry McCullagh  
Acting Principal

*The department for Education helpline to answer questions about COVID 19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:*

- Phone 0800 046 8687
- Email [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)
- Opening hours 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

