



Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus and implications for schools

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and how you can help us to make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at New College Leicester we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and Leicester City Council.

Obviously, our key concerns are the health of everyone in our school community, and, that our students continue to receive the very best standard of education.

Our current situation:

- The **school remains open** – this is the official guidance we've been given
- All school functions continue to run as normal i.e. breakfast club, after school activities
- Students should attend unless they feel unwell. The new advice now is that anyone who lives with someone displaying coronavirus symptoms should also stay at home for 14 days. If your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 14 days**:
 - a new, continuous cough and
 - a temperature of above 37.8 degrees
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

Please note: there are plenty of children, and adults, who may have a cold at this time of year, but may not be infected with the Coronavirus. If you feel your child needs to stay at home because they are presenting the symptoms associated with the Coronavirus, please contact the school in the usual way and inform us.

Attendance - Where a student cannot attend school due to illness, the student will be recorded as "absent" in the attendance register.

Where a student is in self-isolation, in accordance with the latest guidance from government, the student will be recorded as "unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances" in the attendance register. *Please note:* this will not count against your child's absence rate – it is disregarded in the figures i.e. you will not be penalised for this.

Please note that in both instances a call must be made using our existing procedures to the school, informing us of the nature of your child's absence.

Implications for staffing at the school – The new advice issued by the government yesterday will make staffing our school more difficult as inevitably some staff will have these symptoms or will be living with people who have these symptoms. We will do all we can to remain open to all students, but I must warn parents that this may not be possible. If we find that we do not have the staff to open to all students then we plan to close for a year group at a time and redeploy our teachers to the remaining groups. We hope that this will not be necessary.

We will prioritise our Year 11 students, for whom this is a very concerning time as they prepare for their exams. We will, therefore, avoid having to send Year 11 home if at all possible.

What we need you to do urgently:

- If you have recently changed your contact details (telephone number or email address), please inform us **as soon as possible** via emailing cmccormack@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk or calling the school
- Make arrangements with your child as to where they need to go e.g. home or relative's house etc. in the event that the school has to send them home during the day due to the school closing
- Talk to your child about the coronavirus. It is a scary time and we should make sure that children feel supported. YoungMinds has practical steps that students can take to help with anxiety - www.youngminds.org.uk
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)

Year 11 and Post 16 Formal Examinations - At the moment, the advice from the examination boards is to continue to prepare as normal. We are monitoring this closely of course, and will communicate any changes, but students must try to focus on their revision.

In the unlikely event that the summer exam window is extended by the exam boards, it would be sensible not to book or schedule anything after Friday 12th June until mid-July at the earliest.

Year 8 Parents Evening – Thursday 26th March

We have decided to cancel this Parents Evening in order to minimise the risk to the health of our staff and to that of parents/carers. We need to ensure that staff remain well so that they are able to continue teaching their classes. A separate letter has been sent to parents/carers of Year 8 students.

Trips and visits - We have taken the decision to cancel/postpone all trips abroad for the remainder of this academic year. This follows a statement from the government at the end of last week, saying that foreign trips are 'not advised'. This is because trip leaders would face significant challenges in making arrangements to ensure children's welfare, should adult supervisors or children be required to self-isolate.

The forthcoming visit for Year 10 students to Birmingham on 24th March and the Year 9-10 visit to Parliament on 30th March will be also be cancelled/postponed, and we are investigating whether it is possible to move these to later in the school year. Other trips will be assessed on an individual basis.

What if the school closes? Staff at New College Leicester have been preparing for the possibility that the government may decide to close schools. There is also the possibility that if too many staff are self-isolating then the school will be forced to close. However, it is vital that education continues and teachers will be setting work which students must complete at home.

Students also have access to a range of online resources which can be used at home. These are attached to this letter.

If you have any questions please consult the:

- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible, before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you are taking abroad should go ahead.

We will do all we can to continue as normal and, in the event of a closure, will be working hard to make sure education can continue as effectively as possible. It is important that we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help to reduce any anxiety.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J. Brown
Principal

Academic/Revision Websites

- BBC Bitesize – www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize This is used by many subjects for revision of content, and useful for all year groups.
- www.targetcareers.co.uk/careers-advice/revision-tips/385994-a-level-and-gcse-revision-resources - resources for all GCSE subjects

Maths:

- www.mathswatch.co.uk – all students are used to this website, and teachers have been ensuring all know the access information.
- www.primrosekitten.com – excellent revision resources for science and maths
- www.corbettmaths.com – excellent maths resources
- www.mathsgenie.co.uk – Brilliant for graded GCSE questions and solutions
- www.mrbartonmaths.com – fantastic resources and videos

Science:

- www.focuselearning.co.uk **Username:** student@newparks2377 **Password:** ogworxpn6
This contains interactive versions of all the required practicals for students to work through experiments, analyse results and apply their findings. Science revision flash cards for key recall are also available through this site. It also contains key knowledge for KS3 and 4.
- www.freesciencelessons.co.uk – excellent revision resource.
- www.primrosekitten.com – excellent revision resources for science and maths

English:

- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize (Edexcel exam board links)
- Mr Bruff on YouTube – language and structure and Macbeth **(Y11)**
- Mary Meredith on YouTube for all of conflict poetry **(Y11)**
- www.sparknotes.com – Macbeth (No fear Shakespeare)/Frankenstein and Journey's End **(Y11)**

Geography:

- www.timeforgeography.co.uk – useful videos for revision
- YouTube – Geography Edexcel B
- Geography GCSE Textbook – online: Access to the Facebook online:
<https://www.pearsonactivelearn.com/app/Register?target=AT> Our code is: 0038518 - You will need to register
- There are links to resources on the Subject section of the school's website.

Computer Science:

- www.senecalearning.com
- www.revisecomputerscience.com/6-a-day-current/
- www.getrevising.co.uk
- CraginDave on YouTube
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize OCR CS revision site

History:

- Seneca Learning - www.senecalearning.com/
<https://www.senecalearning.com/blog/history-gcse-podcasts-by-seneca/> (PODCASTS)

Health and Social Care:

- <https://www.poltairschool.co.uk/files/A-BOOKLET-1-BTEC-Tech-Award-in-Health-and-Social-Care.pdf>

Design Technology:

- www.Technologystudent.com

RE:

- <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062/>
- <https://www.senecalearning.com/blog/gcse-religious-studies-revision/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zjgx47h>

MFL:

- <https://theidealteacher.com/gcse-french-speaking-questions-practice>
- <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/french-2016.html>
- DuLingo – App to practice speaking, vocabulary and grammar.
- Active Learn – Pupils all have a login where they can access a range of resources.
- www.teachitlanguages.co.uk/french

Media Studies:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/ztnygk7>
- <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies/gcse/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOy9D9ntQuw&list=PLtsOjyS9oHR0dPx7Z7KXNailjrKUSXmuS&index=6> (From here you will find links to all exam texts)