



Diocese of St. Albans



16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### Reference: Update on Coronavirus

As you know, on Friday 13 March the Government widened their advice on who should self-isolate to include those that have flu-like symptoms, even though they may not have been to an affected area or been in contact with an infected person. As a result, we have several of members of staff and students who are either currently experiencing the symptoms, or who have been in contact with people who are showing these symptoms, and they are following government guidance to self-isolate. The school is continuing to do all that it can to minimise the spread with good hygiene, and is following all the advice from Public Health and Herts County Council; as such we believe there is no additional risk to students and staff.

At the Leadership Meeting today we decided that, in addition to the measures outlined in my letter this morning, we will:

1. Postpone the school play, *Bugsy Malone*, until July (to prevent large numbers of visitors coming in to school)  
*After serious consideration, we have taken the decision to reschedule the performances of 'Bugsy Malone' until **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020**. The dates are being rescheduled to fall into the same academic year although we are aware that any Year 11's involved may not be able to participate and if this is the case students should please come and speak to us at your soonest convenience. **Rehearsals will be suspended until after Easter to reduce the amount of social contact between us and to allow for any parts to be reassigned. Rehearsals after Easter will posted on the notice board. All tickets are valid for the new dates.***
2. Cancel all sports fixtures (to minimise contact between members of our community and other school communities; other schools are also doing this)
3. Ensure that cleaners are vigilant about cleaning hand rails, handles and buttons
4. Cancel any further planned parent/carer meetings before Easter (to prevent large number of visitors coming in to school)
5. Monitor the advice on trips abroad. We are not currently cancelling the two overseas trips we have in June/July because the advice not to travel is not time-limited and it is not clear when it will end. We will monitor this advice and make a decision nearer the time
6. Still run Easter Revision for Year 11 students, but this will remain under review and we will take heed of any advice nearer the time

ASPIRE • CHALLENGE • SUCCEED

Lieutenant Ellis Way, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN7 5FB t: 01992 629124 f: 01992 643354  
e: [admin@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk) w: [www.st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk](http://www.st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk)  
Head Teacher: Mr Nicholas Simms B.Sc. (Hons), NPQH

*'Students feel happy and safe at school' OFSTED 2019*  
*'An exceptionally inclusive and caring community' SIAMS Inspection (2020)*

7. Set work for students who are self-isolating. I will ask staff to upload the resources they used in the lesson (Powerpoints, worksheets etc) on to the Show My Homework website for students to work through at home.

I will end with the same paragraphs that I used on this morning's letter:

All the time we are open you will need to decide on whether to send your children in to school or not, based on their health (including any underlying health problems that they may have which place them at a higher risk). Use the latest Government advice if they show symptoms that concern you (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>) and consult your GP or child's specialist if they have an underlying health problem. Please do not call or email us for advice; we are not qualified to decide whether someone should or should not come to school. If your child is absent please email our Attendance Officer Mrs Auld on [attendance@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk) or call her on 01992 642918 even if you discuss your child's absence with another colleague first. I can let you know that any self-isolation is coded (in absence terms) as 'exceptional circumstances' and does not count against attendance figures, so families will not be sanctioned for prolonged absence due to self-isolation.

During any closure, or student absence, we would recommend that students should stay indoors and should not gather with groups of other students; that is the point of absence or closure after all! School closure will mean we will be isolated at home until the Government gives us further updates.

Finally, do not panic. If the Government decides to close schools, this will be a preventative action designed to minimise the impact of this nasty virus and to protect the more vulnerable.

I will regularly communicate the families through the website and email during any closure.

Yours sincerely



Nicholas Simms  
Headteacher

ASPIRE • CHALLENGE • SUCCEED

Lieutenant Ellis Way, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN7 5FB t: 01992 629124 f: 01992 643354  
e: [admin@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk) w: [www.st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk](http://www.st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk)  
Head Teacher: Mr Nicholas Simms B.Sc. (Hons), NPQH

*'Students feel happy and safe at school' OFSTED 2019*  
*'An exceptionally inclusive and caring community' SIAMS Inspection (2020)*