



17 March 2020

Dear Parent

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As you will be acutely aware, the coronavirus situation is changing more rapidly than anybody expected and it is becoming increasingly difficult to plan ahead. Nonetheless, I am writing with an update in a number of areas. Please be assured that we continue to monitor and follow carefully all official advice.

Travel

As countries around the world continue to introduce new restrictions, anything other than local travel is currently out of the question for schools. Decisions regarding forthcoming trips will be made in conjunction with travel providers and the parents of pupils who are signed up will be kept informed of any significant developments.

Planning for Disruption

Although schools currently remain open, we can only expect the number of absent pupils and teachers to increase as new restrictions and recommendations come into force. We will do our best to operate normally with the resources available to us, but I ask parents to be understanding of the inevitable disruption caused by absence.

In the event of closure, as I indicated in my last letter, the teachers of classes in the Senior School have been asked to provide materials, set work and respond to individual pupil queries on a daily basis, broadly in accordance with the timetable. It will be our aim to maintain the sense of purpose, connectedness and community that we will all need in the face of anxiety and isolation. Teachers are already planning to deliver teaching online and I will provide more detailed information to parents, if it is required, at a suitable time. The Junior School will also provide materials in a way that is appropriate for the age and stage of each class. We are a leading provider of education and the school will do all that it can to maintain the delivery of high quality teaching and learning in the event of physical closure.

The implementation of our plans for 'Wellington Online' will only begin in the event of school closure. Whilst the school remains open, teachers are fully occupied delivering lessons to their classes and will provide what support they can to absent pupils in the usual way.

SQA

The position of the SQA remains unchanged and the 2020 examination diet is still scheduled to proceed as planned. Teachers have been encouraged to ensure that assignments and coursework are completed as soon as possible and pupils should ensure that they adhere to any deadlines set.

School Events

In response to the latest advice, most school activities and events that are not connected directly to the delivery of the normal school timetable have been cancelled or postponed. A detailed list of cancellations has already been sent to parents.

Minimising the Risk of Spreading Infection

All members of the extended school community are asked to be aware of and to act on the latest official advice regarding social contact and self-isolation. The school continues to take all reasonable steps to ensure good hygiene and to comply with the recommendations provided.

We have been advised that the NHS Health Protection Team will be in contact if the school is required to take particular action as the result of a case of infection within the community.

These are extraordinary times and we will continue to do our best to serve both the educational needs of your sons and daughters, and the safety and health of the whole school community. I thank each and every one of you for your support and understanding as, like people and organisations all around the world, we try to navigate our way through challenges that are without precedent.

Meanwhile, I hope that you and your family stay safe and well in the days and weeks ahead.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Smith', is positioned at the bottom left of the page.