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Monday, 23rd March 2020

Dear parents / carers,

We are in the middle of a very challenging set of circumstances as schools and I wanted to take the opportunity to update you about what we are doing at school to support pupils, families and staff as we move forward. Like other special schools in the city, we are trying our hardest to keep the school open for as long as we possibly can. As we all try to prevent the spread of the virus, we also aim to ensure that all of our pupils are safe, happy, healthy and learning.

To achieve these aims:

- We will continue to stay in contact with families as much as possible, including those families that are choosing to self-isolate.
- I am aware that some parents are worried about keeping their children off because of 'Attendance' matters, but please let me assure you that during these unprecedented times, families will not get into trouble with the Attendance Welfare Service for keeping their children at home.
- The government advice to reduce the risk of the spread is that wherever possible, if you can stay at home, do so and this includes keeping your children at home wherever possible also.
- Children that are self-isolating need to try to maintain some sort of a routine where they are reading / completing work that we have sent home / working online to maintain learning.
- Children should also take the opportunity to exercise to stay healthy, by walking the dog, going for a jog or completing some form of daily physical activity, whilst also remembering the need to distance ourselves socially from others.
- **Good hand washing** is key to reducing the risk of spreading the virus and there are plenty of video clips online that show how to do this effectively.
- If you are a parent / carer that works in a critical sector job, then you are classed as a 'Key Worker' and the city is working hard to ensure that your children have access to school / childcare every day so that you can continue to go to work.

Many parents / carers working in these critical sector roles may be able to ensure that their child is cared for at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be kept at home.

We have received guidance today from the exam boards that teachers will be asked to submit judgements about what grades they felt Year 11 pupils would have achieved in their exams this summer along with supporting evidence, so we are exploring the possibility of giving Year 11 pupils the option of sitting mock exams using past papers, with clear regard to social distancing.

As a school, we will continue to provide you with as much information as possible as and when it becomes available, in the meantime, I wish you all the very best of health and happiness at this very difficult time. Please stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Head teacher