



Gladesmore Community School

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18th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of students in Year 10 and 11

Re: Coronavirus

I must apologise for yet another letter regarding COVID-19 in your inbox. However, in the light of the developments I thought you would want to be frequently updated.

Today we are successfully managing to deliver lessons to Year 10 and 11. We have made particular arrangements for Year 11 students who study Music, Graphics, Resistant Materials, Art or Drama so that they have been able to accelerate their progress with their coursework in these subjects.

All students are now required to remain on site **during the lunchtime**. We will provide **free** lunch for all students this week.

Attendance is down as we expected. We are grateful to all who have listened to the government's advice and not attended if they are in risk groups; it is the right thing to do for themselves, their family and all in the community.

On Thursday 19th March, we were expecting to hold our Parents' Evening for the parents and carers of students in Year 11. Following guidance from Public Health England, this event has now been cancelled.

On **Friday 20th March**, we intend to delay when taught lessons begin until 9.45am. This time will be used by staff to continue planning for the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on school. Students do not have to be in school until **9.30am**, however, if you need to drop students off earlier, will be available to supervise students from 8am onwards.

Students who are at home should be revising. They can do work online that will be set by their teachers on 'Show my Homework', or use 'My Maths' or be reading. Please **regularly** check the Gladesmore Website for information.

To date we have had no information from the government or the Examination Boards about the impact of COVID-19 on public exams. I would urge those in Year 11 to carry on in the assumption that they will be taking place. We will, of course, contact Year 11 students and parents as soon as we have any further information on this.

We are all part of an extremely special school community at Gladesmore and I know that our resilient spirit will carry us through this unprecedented and difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Tony Hartney CBE



Government Advice

We are advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures.

This group includes those who are:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (ie anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
- chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
- chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
- chronic kidney disease
- chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
- chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
- diabetes
- problems with your spleen – for example, sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed
- a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy
- being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
- those who are pregnant

Note: there are some clinical conditions which put people at even higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. If you are in this category, the NHS will directly contact you with advice the more stringent measures you should take in order to keep yourself and others safe. For now, you should rigorously follow the social distancing advice in full, outlined below.

People falling into this group are those who may be at particular risk due to complex health problems such as:

- people who have received an organ transplant and remain on ongoing immunosuppression medication
- people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radiotherapy
- people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia who are at any stage of treatment
- people with severe chest conditions such as cystic fibrosis or severe asthma (requiring hospital admissions or courses of steroid tablets)
- people with severe diseases of body systems, such as severe kidney disease (dialysis)

What is social distancing?

Social distancing measures are steps you can take to reduce the social interaction between people. This will help reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

They are:

- Avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). These symptoms include high temperature and/or new and continuous cough;
- Avoid non-essential use of public transport, varying your travel times to avoid rush hour, when possible;
- Work from home, where possible;
- Avoid large gatherings, and gatherings in smaller public spaces such as pubs, cinemas, restaurants, theatres, bars, clubs
- Avoid gatherings with friends and family. Keep in touch using remote technology such as phone, internet, and social media.
- Use telephone or online services to contact your GP or other essential services.

Everyone should be trying to follow these measures as much as is pragmatic.

For those who are over 70, have an underlying health condition or are pregnant, we strongly advise you to follow the above measures as much as you can, and to significantly limit your face-to-face interaction with friends and family if possible.

This advice is likely to be in place for some weeks.

