

Our Ref: SDN/KON

18 March 2020



ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: COVID-19 UPDATE - 18 MARCH 2020

I am writing to you again to share the latest information and approach being taken by Dormston School in light of the current COVID-19 situation.

Like many organisations, we have had to change the way we operate and cancel many events including; Year 9 Options Evening, Year 11 GCSE Evening, Year 11 Geography Fieldwork Trips, Year 9 Parents' Evening and our Pizza Reward Evening. While this is unfortunate, all relevant key information has been posted on the website as appropriate.

The change in the way we all now have to operate is likely to go on for some time so we will continue to inform you of any updates and/or cancellations on an hourly/daily/weekly basis if need be.

As you know, we took the decision to implement partial school closure for Years 7 & 8 today (Wednesday 18 March 2020) as our staffing structure has become severely affected. I acknowledge that this will have caused you and your family some disruption and I hope you understand that we did not take this decision lightly. Year 7 & 8 should have all logged on to Go 4 Schools and I am hoping they have all been working hard completing the work set.

The resilience of the students, staff and parents so far has been admirable and I do appreciate that for some parents it is a dilemma as to whether to send your child into school or not. As yet, none of us know quite how long this will go on for and as a school community we are all going to need to learn to adapt in order to move through the situation successfully. I am confident however that we can do this if we all work together.

Communication at this time is key and we will do our very best to be open and transparent about our plans. Whilst I know the update letters provide no long term solutions or answers to the current situation I do hope it keeps you well informed and offers some reassurance that we are taking all the necessary measures we can to continue to operate effectively and safely for as long as we possibly can.

Could we please remind parents that you should NOT be sending your child in to school if they are displaying symptoms or if a member of the household has been displaying symptoms.

Arrangements for Thursday 19 March 2020 and Friday 20 March will be as follows:

- **Thursday 19 March 2020 - Years 11, 10 & 8 to attend as normal. Years 7 & 9 should NOT attend.**
- **Friday 20 March 2020 - Years 11, 10 & 7 to attend as normal. Years 8 & 9 should NOT attend.**

I will ask staff to set work on GO 4 Schools and you can also refer to the school website for the Knowledge Organisers. I kindly request that you keep children indoors and ask them to complete the work on GO 4 Schools. All students have been reminded on how to log-in to their emails and access GO 4 Schools. We have also recently sent you information on how to reset your GO 4 Schools password if required.

We realise that some of our parents/carers are doctors, nurses, NHS staff and members of the emergency services who currently are having to work extremely hard dealing with the situation as this time. To support them, we are willing to allow ALL students who have parents employed in the aforementioned professions to attend school as normal regardless of year group. These students will be allowed to work under supervision in our PLC. If this applies to you would you please call or email the school (info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk) to let us know. We appreciate that all parents have to work exceptionally hard, however at the moment we can only support these front line services.

Arrangements for W/C Monday 23 March 2020 will be shared with parents on Friday 20 March 2020.

Understandably, we do have a lot of parents ringing up regarding trips. As and when we can confirm the official cancellation of any trips we will do so and will arrange for refunds to be given promptly. This will be done on a trip by trip basis as travel companies officially confirm cancellations with us. I can confirm that the USA Ski Trip scheduled to depart on 3 April 2020 has now been cancelled. We have officially received confirmation from the Ski Company that this is the case. Any deposits paid will be refunded as soon as possible.

We are assessing the situation on daily basis to ensure that the learning and safety of your child remains our top priority. On a personal note, I hope you are all keeping safe and well. If you have concerns or questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Once again, I would like to thank all parents and carers for your patience, understanding and co-operation during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Dixon
Head Teacher