



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Principal: Mr D Smith

17th March 2020

Coronavirus Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are currently dealing very carefully with the issues relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19). We have been carrying on as normal with everyday school life with the added advice to students and staff re hygiene and taking extra time to wash hands regularly. We are, however, reaching a point where the impact on staffing levels due to illness and self-isolation, is making it increasingly difficult to operate the school as normal. We have therefore taken the decision to ask pupils in **year 8** and **year 12** to remain at home for the remainder of this week, as we do not have sufficient staff in school to operate safely. Year 8 and 12 appear to be the year groups which are currently most affected by pupil absence due to illness and self-isolation.

We continue to monitor the changing stance of the government and it may be that there is a directive to close schools completely at some point. Staff are currently liaising within departments on the plan of action if this occurs: mainly in terms of using online resources to set and receive work. Students have access to Show My Homework which will be used to direct them to resources to use at home, so they will have plenty of work to do at home. This will be put in place for year 8 and 12 immediately.

Show My Homework can be accessed directly at:

<https://bluecoatcollege.satchelone.com/school/homeworks/calendar>

or via a link on the school website at:

<https://www.bluecoatacademy.org/staff-links/student-quick-links>

Students need to be proactive in making sure that they can access work, if we have to close. If your child does not have access to the internet, please let their Head of Year know as soon as possible so that we can make alternative arrangements for offsite learning. As you can appreciate, this is an extremely difficult time and I can understand that people are concerned about the health and well-being of their children. This is our number one priority and we are managing the situation with this consideration at the heart of everything we do as always. If we do have to extend closures, we will communicate this clearly via text message, Twitter, the school Facebook account and the school's website. Please check these regularly and be mindful of some misleading information which can circulate on social media.

Thank you for your support and understanding at a time of uncertainty.

Yours faithfully,

Rev. H. Bishop
Chair of Governors

D. Smith
Principal

