



Headteacher's Update

Thank you to all parents and families for your continued support at this strange and difficult time. We appreciate the pressure that so much of the uncertainty is putting you under and hope that these updates continue to answer questions that you have and to put your mind at rest, as much as is possible.

Business as usual?

Although this phrase doesn't quite reflect what school life is like at the moment, our school chaplain and visiting Governors have commented on how the feel of the school remains purposeful, calm and happy. Notwithstanding this, we have, of course, put in place measures in response to the advice from Public Health England and the DfE. We are taking very seriously our responsibility to protect the members of our community.

Attendance levels

The school is currently able to run at full capacity, despite some staff absence. At present there is no need to suspend normal lessons and our external supply pool, as well as our teachers, are extending their work to make this happen.

Student absence for illness is normal at this time of year. We have been informed by parents that 7% of the total student population are at home for reasons of self-isolation. The vast majority of these are precautionary and relate to other family members. Only 5 students have gone home due to displaying some of the symptoms associated with the virus. **We continue to have no confirmed cases at school.**





Virtual Assemblies

Our daily assemblies sustain us in normal times and maintain our community spirit in challenging times. Although on Tuesday we held our final whole school assembly, we will be moving to virtual assemblies which will take place in form rooms. The Performing Arts Department are already recording uplifting music and 'thoughts for the day' will be conveyed to students via our classroom projectors. Our assemblies provide laughter, thought-provoking messages and spiritual support. This will continue, albeit in a new format, appropriate for the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

Below is a link to our first virtual music performance which was shared this morning for all to enjoy within the form rooms:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1inUg3VUH9w&list=RD1inUg3VUH9w&start_radio=1

Number of cases UK & Locally

As of 9am on 17 March 2020, 50,442 people have been tested in the UK, of whom 48,492 were confirmed negative and 1,950 were confirmed as positive. 60 patients who tested positive for COVID19 have died. 65 patients who tested positive for COVID19 have recovered.

By county (As of 9am on 17 March 2020)

In the Local Authority of **Buckinghamshire**, there are a total of 23 confirmed cases.

In the Local Authority of **Oxfordshire**, there are a total of 25 confirmed cases. We have no confirmed cases at School



Extended Breaks

We have also extended both of our breaks to relieve the pressure on the restaurant and to reduce the footfall at counters and numbers at tables at these usually busy times. The restaurant is continuing to produce high quality breakfasts, lunches and break time snacks.

Cleaning at school continues to be a priority. Door handles are sanitised three times a day. In addition to this as many doorways as possible are being left open to avoid handle use. Toilet areas are being sanitised after lunch & break. Keyboards and mice are also being sanitised regularly. We are liaising with our excellent support staff supply agency to fill any gaps we may have in caretaking and cleaning staff to ensure our high standard can be maintained.

Students and staff with underlying medical conditions

The advice is clear that people with underlying medical conditions should exercise social distancing. Several staff and families have followed this advice. If you are concerned about any underlying conditions, such as asthma, we recommend that you contact your GP. Although our Medical Officer, Caroline Hicks, can't tell you what to do, she would be able to talk through or discuss any details relating to your child. Her email address is medical@waddesdonschool.com, or you can reach her by the school office number 01296 651382.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." [John 10:10]

Current Department of Education Update (17/03/20)

On Monday 16th March, the Government introduced new guidance on whole isolation in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started
- if you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.
- The Symptoms are:
 - A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
 - A new, continuous cough

The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>



Safeguarding

While the school remains open you should continue to convey any Safeguarding concerns via the usual means. Mr Sturla is our Designated Safeguarding Lead, supported by Miss McIver and Mrs Branton as Additional Safeguarding Leads. All three are currently in school. In the event of a school closure or other eventuality, the following information will help you. If you are concerned about a child, it is important that you talk to someone about this. Don't ignore your concerns or delay taking action.

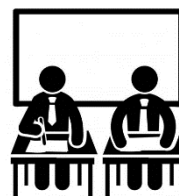
- If there is immediate risk of harm to a child, call the Police on 999
- You can call Buckinghamshire County Council's First Response Team on 01296 383962 (out of hours: 0800 999 7677). They will listen to your concerns and decide on the appropriate course of action.

You can contact the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 (free service, lines open 24 hours a day). They will listen to your concerns, offer advice and support and can take action on your behalf if a child is in danger. You can also report concerns anonymously. For further information or to report your concerns online visit: www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/



Show My Homework

As you know, work will be uploaded onto Show My Homework (SMHW) in the event of a school closure. As there are a small number of students away, we have also asked our teachers to provide, where possible, tasks and information for any absent students to work on. Although this is no substitute for classroom teaching and rich learning gained from group discussion and interaction, we hope that this will prevent absent students from falling behind in their work. As families, following the **Where, When, How** advice in the previous newsletter will support your child in a healthy and productive way.



Exams

We currently have no further updates regarding the exams. It is our view that these will continue in some form or other and that Years 11 and 13 should continue their careful preparation for these. We intend to teach and support them right up to the exams in one way or another. The school has put in place a contingency plan for these exams to be held in places other than the school should that be necessary.

Update on educational visits

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) now [advises British people against all non-essential travel](#) worldwide. This advice takes effect immediately and applies initially for a period of 30 days.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unprecedented international border closures and other restrictions. All countries may restrict travel without notice.

We continue to review our scheduled visits on a daily basis and will update parents as soon as each decision is made. We are in contact with our travel providers and where necessary we will also contact our insurers.

The Prime Minister's statement from Monday 16 March can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-coronavirus-16-march-2020>

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any forthcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

And finally...

We are very proud of the way that our students and staff have responded to this situation. The desire to keep on going, to support one another, as well as those outside our community is palpable. Our young people continue to embody Dignity and Respect by thinking of others, contributing to food banks, and showing compassion for the most vulnerable at this time. It is both humbling and inspiring to see these responses.

Mr Abbott

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