



RUTLISH SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Ms L. Howarth

17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus update – 17 March 2020

Following my letter sent early yesterday afternoon, the Prime Minister's announced some significant changes to how we should all protect ourselves and prevent the infection spreading.

Partial Closure for Years 7, 8 and 9 from 8am Wednesday 18 March until Friday 3 April 2020

It is with regret that I am closing the school to our Key Stage 3 students as we do not have enough staff to teach all classes and keep the school operating safely. I have to prioritise the continuation of teaching students who are preparing for public examinations at such a crucial time. For families who are concerned about individual well-being and welfare or for families who are in a fragile position, please contact your son's Head of Year:

- Year 7 – Mrs Edwards: Seanin.Edwards@rutlish.merton.sch.uk
- Year 8 – Ms Pearce: Hannah.Pearce@rutlish.merton.sch.uk
- Year 9 – Mr Price: Joshua.Price@rutlish.merton.sch.uk

I hope that we will be able to reopen the school to all students at the start of next term – Monday 20 April.

Year 7, 8 and 9 should remain at home. Teachers are uploading work to Fronter for students to complete at home.

Year 10 students should attend school for their scheduled exams. Students should remain at home on study leave revising if they do not have an exam. If a student misses an exam due to ill health, we will try to make alternative arrangements for the last week of term. I will review the situation near the end of the exams to inform you whether students should return to school for the last week of term.

Year 11, 12 and 13 students should attend school as normal.

Home learning

Teachers are currently uploading a series of learning activities for students to complete at home. We have talked to Y7-9 students in an assembly about the partial closure and how we will provide work via Fronter and our expectations for work completion and submission. In the meantime, please do not contact your child's teachers directly as this will divert them from the task of putting together the online activities.

Support for pupils preparing for exams/tests

The school is following advice and assumes that formal national examinations will take place as scheduled. Should students wish to purchase revision guides, please ensure this is done via the finance office at lunchtimes or after school.

Ofqual have issued the following statement:

'We recognise that students, parents, schools and colleges will be concerned about the possible impact of coronavirus on the 2020 summer exam series. Our advice at this time is to continue to prepare for exams and other assessments as normal.'



We continue to work closely with exam boards, other regulators and the Department for Education and we have met to plan for a range of scenarios, as the public would expect. Our overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum.

It is still many weeks until exams start and we will issue updated advice if necessary, giving schools and colleges as much notice as possible.'

Social Distancing

As you are aware, I have cancelled all trips, fixtures and school events. Today, I have also cancelled Saturday school and Easter Revision sessions. I have asked teachers to ensure there are revision resources for Year 11 and Year 13 students to access via Fronter.

Self-Isolation

The latest advice is that if students who have a family member who is self-isolating or have been in contact with someone who is self-isolating, the student should stay at home and self-isolate regardless of whether they have any symptoms. Please refer to government guidance in previous communication.

Vulnerable students and staff

We have some students and some staff who are deemed vulnerable due to an underlying medical condition. These students and staff are advised to self-isolate and stay at home. Please inform us in the usual way (absence line) if you decide to keep your child at home.

I hope you will find the government advice useful: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

It is summarised in this table:

Group/ Action	Wash hands more often	Household isolation for 14 days*	Self - isolation for 7 days**	Social mixing in the community***	Having friends and family to the house	Use remote access to NHS and essential services	Vary daily commute and use less public transport	Home working
0 – 69	Yes	Yes	Yes	Advised against	Advised against	Advised	Advised	Advised
70+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised	Strongly advised	Strongly advised
Any age Member of vulnerable group with an underlying health condition ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised	Strongly advised	Strongly advised
Pregnant women	Yes	Yes	Yes	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised against	Strongly advised	Strongly advised	Strongly advised
Those with serious underlying health conditions	As above, but further bespoke guidance will be provided by your GP next week							

Please continue to use OpenCheck or the live status feed on the Merton website <https://news.merton.gov.uk/school-closures/> to check when the school will reopen to KS3 students.

I apologise for inconvenience to parents and carers and would like to thank you all for your continued support during such an exceptional time. I will write to parents again if and when the advice from the Government or Public Health England changes.

Yours sincerely,



Ms L Howarth
Headteacher

