



RUTLISH SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Ms L. Howarth

16 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19 update: 16 March 2020

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your continued support at such an exceptional time for us all. The school **will remain open unless we advised otherwise by the Government or Public Health England**. Students should attend school as normal unless they are unwell or display Covid-19 symptoms - a new, continuous cough or a high temperature. If a student or member of staff becomes unwell whilst at school, we will send them home.

In the attempt to reduce the risk of infection for students and staff, I have cancelled all trips and fixtures until the end of term; this includes the RR6 Geography field trip to Slapton and the forthcoming rugby tournaments. I will review the situation after the Easter holidays. Parents of RR6 students who were due to attend the Geography field trip will be contacted separately regarding the rescheduling and refund of this trip.

If we have to implement a partial closure due to the number of staff absent, I will inform you as soon as practicably possible. We will prioritise continuity for exam groups (Year 11 and Y13). You can also check if the school is open via the [OpenCheck](#) website.

If there is an urgent public health action to take, the school will be contacted by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team who will undertake a risk assessment and advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken. PHE will rarely advise a school to close but this may be necessary if there are so many staff being isolated that the school has operational issues.

I continue to encourage all members of the school to wash their hands more often for 20 seconds with soap and hot water and to use tissues if they sneeze or cough to 'catch it, bin it, kill it'. This will help minimise the spread of infection. Please watch this short NHS film for guidance: <https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>.

If your child is unwell, please contact the school absence line ([020 8540 3134](tel:02085403134)) to inform us of the reason for their absence, thank you.

As you are aware, I will continue to monitor the situation daily and will share any further updates as necessary. I do hope that everyone in our school community remains in good health.

Useful information:

- Updates on COVID-19: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- Guidance for educational settings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>



- Travel guidance for educational settings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/covid-19-travel-guidance-for-the-education-sector>

Yours sincerely,



Ms L Howarth
Headteacher

