RUTLISH SCHOOL

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Headteacher: **Ms L. Howarth**

13 March 2020

Dear Parents/carers

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update - The school will remain open.

The Prime Minister has announced that the UK has moved to the 'delay' phase of the coronavirus action plan. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan Please be assured that the school is following Public Health England and Government advice.

As you are already aware and to our knowledge, we have not had any staff or students with suspected COVID-19, no-one has tested positive therefore **we will remain open.** 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, please see instructions below.

Public Health England and Government aim is to reduce and delay the spread of the virus and have therefore asked people who have a fever or a persistent cough to self-isolate for 7 days. If your child is unwell and has any flu-like symptoms please follow this advice and contact NHS 111 if you have any concerns about their health. If your child has a medical condition which might be affected by COVID-19, please contact NHS 111 for advice.

How to self-isolate: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/

 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

The Prime Minister has also advised that there should be no school trips abroad. We have a planned trip to France and a trip to Germany due in the latter part of the summer term which will not go ahead unless the Government position changes. We will be in contact with the tour operators and travel agents and then inform those parents/carers and students affected

We will continue to follow DfE guidance with regards to school trips within the UK, sport fixtures and visitors to the school there are no plans at present to stop these, however, we will review this position each day.

Department for Education coronavirus helpline
The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:
Phone: 0800 046 8687
Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)
Please note, we are currently experiencing high volumes of calls and apologise for any wait that you may experience. Your call will join a queue and we will answer as soon as possible.
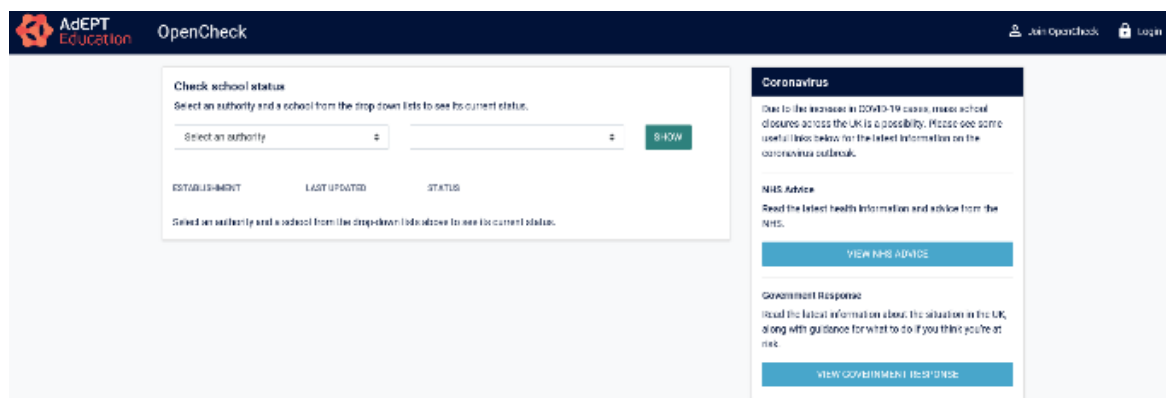
Updates on COVID-19: https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

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

OpenCheck

This is a national website to enable parents to check the status of a school and emergency school closures. Please click on link: https://opencheck.adept.education/default.aspx, select an authority (Merton) and select the school (Rutlish).

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

I will be monitoring the situation daily and will share any further updates as necessary. I do hope that everyone in our school community remains in good health and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms L Howarth
Headteacher
Cc: Staff and Governors