



18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Coronavirus update**

Further to my previous communications, I wanted to provide you with an update on our current situation and how KNGS is responding to the Coronavirus.

**The situation:** Government guidance has changed considerably in the past couple of days, and we have responded to this; this includes:

- Cancelling or postponing all school events considering the guidance to avoid large gatherings. This includes Y8 parents evening and the school production of Little Shop of Horrors.
- Restricting external visitors to our school site.
- Restricting staff who travel to other sites.
- Enabling home working for all staff who are in the at-risk group in line with the guidance that states that these groups should now minimise social contact.
- Contacting all parents/carers of at-risk students to discuss the measures we need to take, if you believe your child is in one of the at-risk groups (see the links below) and we have not contacted you then please contact the school directly on 0121 675 1305.

Guidance has changed to state that whole families should self-isolate for 14 days if one member of the family presents with symptoms, the key symptoms are:

- A high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
- A new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly.

The new guidance outlines that:

- Individuals will still be asked to self-isolate for 7 days from the onset of symptoms.
- Other individuals in the same household will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the moment that the first individual experiences symptoms.
- If another member of the household develops symptoms, they must not leave the home for 7 days from when the symptoms started.

This guidance is impacting staffing levels in school, we expect the impact to increase in the coming days. Today, we have successfully taught all lessons at KS3 and KS4 and the majority at KS5.

**What we have done:** As you know, we have been, and will continue to regularly monitor and follow the advice from Public Health England and the Department for Education. We have heightened our own hygiene measures in school, including enhanced cleaning and briefed students on personal hygiene (washing hands) and we would appreciate your continued support in reinforcing this at home also.

Where students are self-isolating, they are able to access some work from the school webdrive from Student Share in the folder 'Work for self-isolation'. Some staff may decide to use Microsoft teams to deliver class lessons to year 13 only (there will not be any one to one delivery). Staff will email information to students if required.



**Response should school close or partially close:** It is likely we would begin with a partial school closure and then a possible full school closure. You will be informed through SIMS In-touch via email and text. During any school closure we will keep you informed via our website and email. We will set your child appropriate work (as detailed below) and inform you as to when school will reopen. We will try to communicate any partial or full closure the day before or by 7.30am of the morning of any closure.

**Setting and completion of work during school closure:** As a school we will endeavour to provide appropriate work to all students over the period of school closure. Where possible staff will provide feedback to students focusing on those in years 11 and 13. The extent of this feedback will be less than normal as we continue to manage staff workload and will vary between staff. Staff have been working hard over the last couple of weeks to plan work for students. While staff are well they will continue to do this.

- Work can be accessed from the ~Portals tab of the school website [www.kngs.co.uk](http://www.kngs.co.uk) by selecting:
  - Webdrive
  - Students must enter their email address and password to gain access.
- Students can also access work from their mobile phones, via the school website. From the menu select Portals, Webdrive and then sign in as above.
- Students can access work from:
  - Student share
  - Open the folder 'Emergency Closure'
  - Choose the subject folder
  - Choose the appropriate year group
- The work will inform students:
  - What work should be completed and the expected outcomes.
  - What work should be emailed to their teacher for assessment.
  - What work will be expected to be brought into school on their return.
- Work has been planned so that it will not always require computer access however, students may be asked to access one of a number of on-line resources, these will have been carefully chosen by their teaching staff.
- All other work should be saved by students until their return to school.
- Your child should complete work if they are well. Please note if your child is ill, once they are recovered, they should complete work *in the order it is set* **NOT** by the date of the lesson.

**Exams and coursework:** This is a worrying time for students who are due to complete external examinations in the summer. We are awaiting further guidance from the DfE and the exam boards and will communicate with you as soon as we have a further update.



**We ask you to support us by:**

- Following government advice on the prevention of the spread of Coronavirus. Which currently involves self-isolation for 14 days should your child or anyone they live with show signs of coronavirus and socially isolating themselves, <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>
- Ensuring that your child is not in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification and avoiding social interaction as outlined by the government.
- Encouraging your child to carry out the work set to the best of their ability as set out above, including if self-isolating and the school is still open.
- Please be aware that if school closes, it may not be possible for us to keep to the timescales set out in our communications policy.

**Current guidance is available at:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancingand-for-vulnerable-people>

Thank you for your support in what we fully appreciate is a difficult time for everyone. I wish everyone who may be unwell a speedy recovery.

Best wishes

Mrs N Raggett  
Headteacher