



Tomlinscote School

13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

In light of the evolving situation concerning Coronavirus, I thought it important to keep you updated with a number of decisions that we have made at Tomlinscote.

Our absolute priority is to ensure that Tomlinscote stays open and that normal lessons occur. In order for this to happen, Tomlinscote is going to concentrate on teaching and learning and to ensure that its staff and students are safe and well.

The Government have stopped all foreign trips and therefore the Year 7 trips to Germany and France and the Year 10 trip to Berlin have all been cancelled. I have instructed staff to contact our travel companies to get a refund.

Furthermore:

- The French trip to London next week has been cancelled.
- The Spanish exchange has been cancelled because the Spanish school are no longer travelling abroad.
- The German exchange has been cancelled and deposits will be refunded to parents.
- We have stopped all foreign schools visiting Tomlinscote.
- All excursions/off-site visits will be cancelled, including sports matches.
- After school clubs will continue.
- The Race for Life will be postponed.
- The Year 7 and Year 10 Parents' Evenings have been postponed. If you have a pressing concern, please contact the relevant Head of Year and he/she will direct your email to the subject teacher.
- The Year 10 exams will still take place after Easter but they will not take place in the Main Hall.
- The Drugs and County Lines presentation to parents next week has been postponed.
- The DofE Bronze Award training during the Inset day on Monday 16th March will continue for Year 10 students. At present, we aim to continue with the Bronze Award expedition as well.
- We are expecting very few external visitors to the school and those people will be expected to complete a self-declaration form.
- The Geography trip to Swanage will continue at present.
- Year 10 Work Experience will continue at present.

(continued)

If the school was forced to close due to excessive staff sickness or due to Government guidance:

- The students will receive work on a daily basis through their iPad. Teachers have been instructed that they set work according to the normal timetable and through Google classroom. We are fortunate to use these systems daily and everything is set up already. Students can communicate to staff through this online method.
- Year 11 are obviously a key priority for us and staff have been informed to ensure students have all the necessary resources required. They will be able to regularly contact staff to gain advice and feedback through Google classroom. At this stage, students can focus on revising their subject content. The guidance at the moment emphasises that public exams will continue as normal.
- If the school closes we will inform you through SIMS Intouch, Twitter and through the website.

If the school is required to partially close due to excessive staff sickness:

- We will prioritise Year 11 in the first instance to remain in school and receive normal lessons. A decision would then be made concerning the other year groups.

We have highlighted the need for students to wash their hands regularly and to use the sanitisers around the school. Please stress this to your son/daughter and they can bring their own sanitiser to school as well.

Tomlinscote will follow guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education about remaining open. I hope this letter provides some clarity during what is a very uncertain and evolving time for us all.

I would like to remind you that we have an Inset day on Monday 16th March.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Major
Principal