

St Crispin's School

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St. Crispin's
Excellence for all



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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: COVID-19 planning

As you will be aware the Government/Public Health England response to Covid-19 has changed. The guidance states that you should stay at home as set out <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection> for 14 days (self-isolate) if you or a member of your family have either:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

This means that staff and students should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal. If a member of staff or a student become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they will be sent home. During the school day we have protocols in place to clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces. Our strong messaging remains that everyone on the school site must wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues. Unless we are directly advised to close by the local Public Health England Health Protection Team, we will remain open.

As a result of this new advice we have encountered very **significant staff absence** as staff correctly follow the Government's advice. This includes a significant number of staff who are pregnant. We have plans in place to ensure classes are covered and as always, we will strive to deliver the best teaching and learning that we can given the circumstances. However, this high staff absence, has meant today we have had to resort to combined classes and partial closure of the school which I am afraid will be ongoing.

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Our partial closing contingency plans have been devised with the Local Authority and other Secondary Headteachers across Wokingham. It is important to emphasise that it remains the firm principle of all Headteachers to keep schools open and we will do this until such a time where it is not operationally possible and this includes agreeing in advance partial closing protocols. This extends to supporting other schools accessing advice and guidance from “well and working” Headteachers should our senior leadership teams be diminished.

Partial closing will only take place at St. Crispin’s when the critical number of staff are no longer available to work. By partially closing the school to specific year groups over time we are better placed to keep open despite significant disruption. Ordinarily partial closure would mean schools being closed indefinitely to a specific key stage over a fixed period of time. In this circumstance we are clear that prolonged absence from school for students is not wise and therefore **our plan would be to rotate the partial closure so that different year groups only miss one rather than consecutive days.** For example a week may look like this:

<i>Monday</i>	<i>school closed to Year 7 (For example only)</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>school closed to Year 8 and year 9 (For example only)</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>school closed to Year 10 (For example only)</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>school closed to Year 8 and 12 (For example only)</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>school closed to Year 9 (For example only)</i>

By rotating different year groups to be absent for just one day at a time we hope that no students at home for a prolonged period. Other town secondary schools will rotate their year groups in their partial closing so that we can encourage as far as possible social distancing of the same aged students. As you will see, lessons will be prioritised to continue for Year 11 and 13 in preparation for their public exams.

As a school we take very seriously the knock on effect to critical public services and **therefore if as a parent you work in the health, education, child care or emergency services sectors your children will still be able to attend school even if their year group is not attending school that day.** If this pertains to you please let your child’s Head of Year know in advance so that suitable arrangements can be put in place.

Regretfully whilst we will endeavour to do so, it will not always be possible to set specific work to be completed at home during any partial closing. It is dependent on the wellness of your son or daughter’s teacher. As set out in my letter of last week we have strong plans that **work would be set routinely and remotely, if schools are closed.**

Therefore, **Parents/Carers would be informed by 2pm of the following day’s partial closure via Schoolcoms and made clear on our website.** It is probably not wise to rely on your son or daughters’ report that the school is closed to their year group! **Unless you receive this partial closing message, the school will be fully open.**



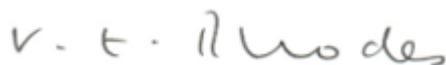
All foreseeable future school events such as this week's Spring Concert, Year 8 parents evening will be cancelled this extends to sports fixtures.

Again, following the Government's advice currently no overseas trips will take place. Other educational visits will be considered on a case by case basis and for obvious reasons will most likely be postponed. Regretfully at this stage there is no definite or clear guidance offered by the Government regarding insurance claims in respect of payments.

We know many parents will be concerned about the impact the current situation may have on GCSE and A Level exams the students are due to take in May and June but there is currently no indication to suggest they won't go ahead as planned. We are in regular communication with Department for Education (DfE) and OFQUAL and will continue to send updates as and when received.

Thank you for your on-going support and understanding during this unprecedented period. We will continue to prioritise the health and welfare of our students and our staff whilst being committed to our ambition to maintaining education provision.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Rhodes
Headteacher