



16th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to update parents on the actions the school is taking in regard to the COVID-19 virus.

We are receiving daily updates from the Department for Education and Public Health England (NHS), and we are following any advice they issue to ensure the wellbeing of all our students and staff. The school has contingency arrangements in place to support students in the event of the Government issuing a notice for schools to close. In the meantime it is important to stress that people need to be proportional and considered in their response to this rapidly changing situation.

The school remains open as usual to all students. Students should ensure that they continue to help to keep themselves and others safe by following basic hygiene advice. Everyone should wash their hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or use alcohol sanitiser (available in every classroom).

As a precautionary measure the Year 11 parents evening this Wednesday is cancelled. If parents of Year 11 students have a concern about their child's progress in a particular subject they should email the teacher directly for feedback. If they have a general concern about their child's progress, please email Mr Saunders.

We fully appreciate that Year 11 students and parents may be particularly concerned in regard to summer examinations. The examination boards, Ofqual and JCQ are working on contingency plans in case of possible disruption to public examinations. Their advice at this time is for students and schools to continue with the published examination timetable as normal.

If we are directed to close, the school are making preparations for all students to be able to access work online via 'Show My Homework'. Please check with your child that they have home access to their school email accounts and google documents linked to their school account. If they do not, they should bring this to the attention of the ICT technician immediately so this can be rectified. Year 11 will have work provided to support them with their examination preparation.

The school show, 'High School the Musical' will now be postponed until later in the year, new dates to be confirmed.

Planned school trips abroad are currently under review, in line with government advice. The school will hopefully be in a position to update parents about these trips later this week. It is expected that the planned school trip to France this Easter will be cancelled, however confirmation is currently being sought. Upcoming trips within the UK are also being reviewed on a regular basis and we will keep you advised.

As of today, there are no known confirmed COVID-19 cases at Marshland High School.

If your child becomes unwell and is showing signs of illness, specifically

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough,

then the advice from the NHS is to stay at home and self-isolate for the recommended time.

Latest information can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Again, if you know your child has had direct exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 they are advised to remain self-isolated at home for the recommended time and inform the school.

Any absence due to this illness will be authorised.

If your child is not ill, but is absent from school, the absence will not be authorised. We cannot make this decision for you, but advise you to phone 111 if you need any specific or further advice. If your child or a member of your family has a **'confirmed'** case of COVID-19, please remember to advise the school as soon as possible.

Taking the above advice into consideration, we are requesting that parents and carers continue to send their child into school as normal. We will communicate with parents should this situation change.

We understand there will be a great deal of anxiety surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak. Please be assured that the school will continue to operate with the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff at the heart of any decisions we take.

Thank you for your understanding and support during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

Craig Jansen
Headteacher