



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Covid-19 - update

After the Government's update yesterday, I just wanted to communicate regarding how this affects the families of STFS.

In line with the Government advice, your child should self-isolate if they show any symptoms of Coronavirus, however mild. This action will help protect others in your community whilst you are infectious. If any members of your family are confirmed with Coronavirus please notify the school as soon as possible after the diagnosis. Further advice can be taken from the following link where it explains the importance of self-isolating for the correct period of time.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

There will be two scenarios in which STFS will close. Scenario one will be a national or directed closure under instruction from the Government or Public Health England. The second scenario and perhaps most likely is if we do not have sufficient teaching staff in school. A school of our size only requires a handful of teachers to be absent for it to have a significant impact on the school and the safe running of the school environment. If this does become a reality then teaching groups in Year 11 and Year 13 would take priority and teachers would be directed to these groups; this may mean that students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 would be required to work at home. We would communicate this with you as early as possible should the need arise.

If there is a national closure of school, the decision will have been taken out of our hands. In both cases students will be provided with work for completion at home. This may include: project work, presentations, reading and revision. Staff will be available during school hours to mark and return work as it is completed. Teaching staff are currently preparing work should the students need to work from home. This will be shared with all members of the school community as soon as possible.



We also have two international trips running in the Summer term. Year 8s are travelling to Normandy and Year 13 to Borneo. The Government's advice regarding such trips is that they are to be cancelled. However, the Government have not given any timescale to this. We are liaising with the trip organisers and will be able to update you early next week regarding final decisions. Further information regarding school trips can be found by clicking the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-advises-schools-and-colleges-to-cancel-overseas-trips>

We have also taken the decision to cancel all sports fixtures and sports festivals at school. We made this decision to try and restrict close contact between students and visitors to the school.

I am aware that many of you will have your own personal concerns regarding Coronavirus. STFS will support families in the very best way we can. Any decision the school makes will be made with the health and safety of students and staff at the forefront. Please continue to follow the advice about reducing the spread of germs from my previous letter.

Thank you for your support through this challenging time.

Yours faithfully,

Neale Pledger
Headteacher

