



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

17 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to my letter yesterday I am writing to update you on the fast-changing situation in our school, as we implement Government advice updates.

In providing education for our students, we must also have regard for the safety and wellbeing of our staff; many of whom may need to self-isolate, in accordance with the latest guidance. Furthermore, we have staff who are particularly vulnerable to illness, and we must put their health first.

For this reason, whilst we will continue to provide a full educational provision for as long as possible, we may need to ask specific year groups to stay at home, so that we have sufficient staff on site to care for students safely. This information may come at short notice. If we need to ask students to stay at home, we will begin with older students, starting with Year 12 and 10, and then moving to years 9,8 and 7 in sequence. This is to enable us to continue to support students preparing for examinations, and to delay, as far as possible, the need for parents to care at home for our youngest students.

We are preparing to send work home remotely if need be; and in that event, further information will follow. We are aware that very few families have more than one computer at home. Work set will aim to enable students to work in various formats. The school has a finite ability to loan Chromebooks to families who do not have a computer, or where an additional computer will help. Priority will be given as follows:

- (i) Students who receive free school meals
- (ii) Students who are pupil premium
- (iii) Other students; until our classroom stocks are depleted. Please use the "heretohelp" email address below.

The school has taken the decision to cancel all future PE fixtures and after school clubs, with immediate effect.

To help parents and carers we have increased the number of staff available to field telephone enquiries; and we are now also opening a dedicated email address for all queries related to meeting student needs in the context of the Coronavirus pandemic: heretohelp@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk

We ask you, at this difficult time, to be mindful of our communication policy; and we will aim to respond to your enquiry at the earliest opportunity. Please prepare for further information at short notice; and if your child or a member of your family is unwell, it is now important that they remain at home.

We send you our thoughts, prayers, and every best wish at this time.

Mr M Antram
Headteacher