



THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

Dear parents and carers,

In these unprecedented times the school remains open and will continue to take advice from the Government. I am very aware that the announcement by the Prime Minister has increased the state of awareness and readiness throughout the country. As a school we will continue to do our best to support all of our students so that they and their families can take the best possible decisions to try and ensure the safe running of our country.

I am sure that you will appreciate that a number of my staff fall into the "at risk" category and with much reluctance will have to self-isolate for 12 weeks from Monday. The school anticipates that at some point in the coming months about 50% of the school community will contract and recover from the viral infection, many of whom will show no symptoms at all.

Information has already been given to the students regarding the importance of handwashing and optimum personal hygiene at this time. I have no doubt that you will be reinforcing these messages at home. Our premises are also being regularly cleaned with soap and hand gel dispensers replenished. Information posters are displayed around the school.

Please follow government guidance if your son becomes unwell. Current information can be found at the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>.

Please report absences in the usual way on the first occasion of absence. Please do not report absence on subsequent days. Can you inform us of the length intended period off school.

If your son develops symptoms whilst at school, we will contact you and you will be asked to collect your child immediately.

You will appreciate that the volume of correspondence and telephone calls to the school has increased significantly. Although we are unable to give individual advice on the best course of action for families to take within their specific context, we will of course try to support any decision that you have taken. We do know that some students are in the high-risk category and parents may decide to isolate their sons. Once again the school cannot offer any advice on taking this decision, but will be fully supportive and categorise these absences as "special circumstances" on the register. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are isolating your son from school because of his high-risk status.

Currently all classes are running, but moving forwards we may have to collapse some classes or year groups if the number of staff requiring self-isolation increases. In preparation for this, please can you send your son to school each day with a reading book. If we do partially close due to reduced staffing, we will try to do this on a rotation so that the same year group is not always hit. Please check the school website every evening to see which year groups we are open for. We will prioritise examination year groups in the first instance and intend to always remain open for Year 11 and 13. We will remain open, unless instructed to fully close, to any boy where you as a parent

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are an Emergency Service worker and would face a 'child care issue'. I will not be able to deliver lessons for a small group of students but will provide an area for them to use.

I am worried about the effect that this will be having on boys who would normally see our Mental Health Lead, those who become particularly anxious or whose mental health requires additional support. To try to support this Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online counselling and emotional well-being service that can be accessed at www.kooth.com.

We have arranged with Lincolnshire Co-op to provide food vouchers for Free School Meal students and I will write specifically regarding this to the parents of those boys.

I hope that you will understand that in the event of a reduced work force it is not possible to deliver the routinely planned 'in school lessons' and provide individual support for students who are isolating at home in the volumes anticipated. I have asked the staff to provide activities and work for those who are off school, which I have attached. We will also place this work on the website.

This is a national emergency and a significant number of students will be seriously disrupted. I know that you will be concerned about your son missing out on his education and the opportunities this affords. Please be assured that the school will continue to do all that it can to mitigate the negative impacts.

I am enormously grateful for and proud of all the support from parents, carers, staff and students as we try to navigate a suitable, safe and sensible route through this difficult time.

SIMON PICKETT

Head Master