

18 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus update and partial school closure

As you are aware, the latest guidance is:

- People with a new and persistent cough and / or a high temperature should self-isolate for 14 days, along with all members of their family/household. **Note:** This is a change from earlier advice.
- People without symptoms of the virus are nevertheless asked to practice 'social distancing' through a range of means, such as working from home if possible, avoiding non-essential travel, not going to pubs, clubs, theatres and other social venues. This applies especially to people who are over 70, or are pregnant or have some health conditions.
- People with queries should search NHS online and should not call 111.

The present decision has been to keep schools open. However, we are not in a position to staff the full timetable **tomorrow, 19th March 2020** due to the number of staff self-isolating.

From **tomorrow, Thursday 19th March until Friday 20th March the school will be closed to pupils in Year 9, 10 and 12 only**. Any students in Year 9, 10 and 12 who are entitled to FSM can come to the school on Thursday 19th March and Friday 20th March to collect a "grab and go" meal at 1pm from the picnic area.

We apologise for the inconvenience but our priority is to keep our students safe and we cannot do that if we do not have enough staff on site. If you cannot keep your child at home safely, please contact us on **020 8648 6627** and we will make every attempt to accommodate your child by group teaching.

We are reviewing the situation as it evolves and will notify you as early as possible of any decisions we make. Please keep your children at home when the school is closed to their year group and ensure that they complete the work on showmyhomework.

If you or your child do need to self-isolate please follow this NHS advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Work has been set on **showmyhomework** which students can access through <https://www.teamsatchel.com/> and <http://www.stmarksacademy.com/page/?title=Homework&pid=37>.

Principal Lisa Peterkin



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Any queries please use the school's email address (school@stmarksacademy.org.uk) and we will respond as soon as possible. Many thanks for your support at this difficult time.

With Love, Hope and Trust



Lisa Peterkin
Principal

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