



17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Following the three statements I have issued to date relating to coronavirus (COVID-19), I wanted to reach out to you to provide further reassurances. This is most certainly an unprecedented situation and one that I have never faced before. Above all else, I want you to know that I am keeping the health and wellbeing of your child and of school staff at the very heart of all my decision making.

There are a number of families and school staff who are particularly vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19. These include those with underlying health conditions, those who are pregnant, those who are elderly and those who have caring responsibilities. Likewise, there are many young people who are anxious about the impact of this disease on their examinations, outcomes and future life chances. I want to balance the needs of all these people as best as I can.

The current advice is that schools should remain open to all pupils and staff. I do not fully agree with this advice and have therefore decided on the following course of action:

Staffing

Staff who are significantly vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19, or who live with people significantly vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19, will be granted a two week leave of absence as we approach the Easter break.

Pupils

Years 7, 8 and 9

A partial closure of the school, affecting Years 7, 8 and 9 and lasting until the Easter break, will begin on Wednesday 18 March 2020. **This means that parents and carers who are able to keep their child at home should do so.** The school will remain open to children in Years 7, 8 and 9 whose parents are unable to keep them at home, for whatever reason. For example, if you are a parent who is unable to work from home, or if you are a healthcare professional, or if you will struggle with the financial burden of my decision, your child may continue to attend school.

Years 10, 11, 12 and 13

School for students in Key Stages 4 and 5 will continue as normal. This will allow preparations for external examinations to continue until such a time that there is new government advice.

In addition to these measures, I have postponed all school events including sporting events, parents' evenings and award ceremonies.

School staff will now begin to make resources available for use at home so that learning may continue. These will be available via the 'Hwb' platform. Children in Years 7, 8 and 9 have today been given a letter about this with instructions and their login credentials. Details for other students will follow shortly. **If, at any time, you or your child needs support with working from home, they should email closurehelpline@stteilos.com.**

I know that the uncertainty around COVID-19 will be causing you worry. I hope that this decision will help to reassure you that we are doing all we can to keep children safe whilst also protecting their educational interests. Please remember to follow the advice given in my previous statement (<http://www.stteilos.com/coronavirus-covid-19-update-3/>) should you, your child or any other family member present with a fever and/or continuous cough.

I will continue to update you with the latest advice and our future plans.

With every prayer and blessing,

Mr I Loynd
Headteacher

*"God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
And though the mountains tremble at the heart of the sea;*

*Though the waters rage and swell
And though the mountains quake at the towering seas.*

*The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our stronghold."*

(From Psalm 46)