

Stour Valley Community School

18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Today we have doubled-up some classes, with some groups being covered by a different teacher. Student absence is higher than yesterday, with 188 students off (that puts our attendance at 68%) and we have a growing number of students self-isolating due to having cold symptoms or potential COVID-19 symptoms themselves or family members with symptoms or in the at-risk category. This figure is at 124 students today.

We remind you that anyone with one of two key symptoms (a high temperature and a continuous cough) **should self-isolate for 14 days, and so should the rest of their household**. Furthermore, anyone with underlying health issues or in the high-risk group should self-isolate. We would therefore not expect any students or staff in that situation to be in school or to return within fourteen days. Once you have informed us of this, we will mark the absence as a 14 days absence. **We do not expect you to call in every day if the absence is COVID-19 related, just if there is a change of circumstance.** You do need to call daily for other absences.

Government guidance from Monday was this:

- First symptoms spotted in any member of a family then the whole family self-isolates for 14 days.
- If anyone else in the family then gets symptoms, they need to self-isolate for 7 days from the onset of their own symptoms (so if they get it on the 14th day, they will isolate for a further 7 days).

We continue to emphasise that you, as parents and carers, must make decisions that are right for you and your family situation in these unprecedented times. Our staff will also need to make those decisions. We continue to follow closely all guidance from NHS England and government advice. We continue to reiterate with students the importance of regular handwashing and we have plenty of liquid soap to keep our soap dispensers topped up. There is also an enhanced cleaning regime around school.

We are prioritising teaching the students in school and ensuring that Year 11 students have everything they need to work effectively from home if we close. Where students are self-isolating and are well enough to complete work, staff have been asked to put work covered in lessons into the Student Shared area **where practical**. This does mean that there may not be something for every lesson missed. We ask that students and parents/carers of students who are self-isolating do not contact individual teachers about missed work; this will support staff to manage the workload of ensuring that appropriate work is provided.

If the school closes, we have a plan in place to set work for all students, but staff are currently focusing on teaching the students that are here. We will continue to review this.

Reminder of cancelled activities and events:

Year 9 Options Evening on Thursday 19 March - cancelled

The Year 8 Parents/Carers' Evening on the calendar for next Thursday 26 March - cancelled.

Year 10 Work Experience mock interviews - cancelled.

Y7 Trip to West Stow – cancelled. Refunds will go back into Parentpay accounts.

After school clubs and revision sessions – all cancelled until further notice from tomorrow (Thursday 19 March). **Further Maths and Year 10 revision will still run today.**

Kind regards



STOUR VALLEY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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