

17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus Update

I would like to start by saying how brilliant our students have been over the last two days. At a time of great uncertainty and anxiety, the calm and mature way they have conducted themselves in school is of great credit to them.

You may be aware that last night the Government changed its advice in relation to self-isolation. If you or anyone in your household has symptoms (new persistent cough and/or high temperature) then everyone living in that household is being instructed to self-isolate for 14 days. The Government has also issued updates and guidance on 'social distancing' for people with underlying medical conditions, or in vulnerable groups, which is available on the Public Health website, see link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

As a result of these specific changes, we have today seen a much larger number of students needing to self-isolate. In addition to this, we also have an increasing number of staff who have needed to take the same action. We will monitor the staffing situation very carefully and if the situation were to arise that we find ourselves unable to offer the necessary number of teachers for classes, we may have to consider some form of partial closure to individual year groups. **In the meantime, Budmouth remains open as normal to all year groups.**

Learning from home

Today we finished the rollout of all the training to students on how to access work that has been set by teachers using what is called 'Google Classroom'. Mr Lydford is placing the training material on the website this evening. I would like to thank Mr Lydford, Ms Marks and Mr Bassett for the work they have been doing in recent days to ensure all staff have had extra training on how to use this. In relation to this, here is a reminder of the following key points:

- Students who have no access to ICT at home via tablet, smartphone, laptop or PC should see Mr Lydford.
- Students who have not yet been able to log onto 'G Suite' should visit our IT support team ASAP.
- Anyone who is not in school and is having difficulty accessing 'G Suite' should use the dedicated email address ITsupport@budmouth-aspirations.org

In the meantime, I would like to thank you all for your positive communication with our staff in relation to this. In particular, I would like to give public thanks to two dedicated members of our support staff: Mrs Sheppard our Attendance Officer and Mr Abbott our Medical and Health & Safety Officer. I am sure you can imagine their workload has increased significantly during this time and they are doing an excellent job under very difficult circumstances. As employees of Budmouth Academy, they are not responsible for Government policy!

As and when we receive any further updates, or have any news to share, we will do so as soon as is reasonably possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



David Herbert