



THE APPLETON SCHOOL

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Achieving Excellence



17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you may know, yesterday evening the Government updated its response to the COVID-19 virus. The guidance now is:

- If any member of a family show symptoms the advice is that the whole household should self-isolate for 14 days. This is to help to protect others in the community.
- Women who are pregnant have been advised to avoid social contact where possible. Therefore, as of today, pregnant staff members are no longer in school.
- An announcement about self-isolation for particular groups of people is expected later this week; these groups include individuals with underlying health conditions and those over the age of 70
- Schools are to stay open

It is therefore important that we follow this advice for both students and staff.

At some point in the near future, this government guidance is likely to result in a significant reduction in the number of our staff who are available for work in school. We already have as of today a number of staff self-isolating as members of their households are unwell. Over time, as the self-isolation period is now 14 days this is likely to have a greater impact on our level of service. In effect this will mean that we have a reduced capacity to teach and safely supervise children, and so must plan to reduce the number of children in school. We will call a situation where we have to reduce the number of children in school a "Reduced Service Event" (RSE). **At the moment this is not the case, but we will continue to monitor events on a daily basis.**

We will of course prioritise students taking examinations this summer in all year groups but particularly years 11 and 13. Even for those children who remain in school during an RSE, the nature of the educational experience we can provide will change, particularly for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12, as we must prioritise teaching of those students taking external examinations in the summer. During an RSE, there may be times in the school day when significant numbers of non-examination year group students are supervised in the Hall rather than being taught in their lessons. At present we have teachers planning online lessons for all students taking examinations this year and in the event of a closure we will inform you how your child can access this learning. We have also prepared two weeks of work which could be completed at home for students in non-examination years in the event of a closure. This work will only be made available should the school be informed by the Government that it is to close.

Cont./...



If, in the future we have to declare an RSE we will email and text you through the School's email system, to inform you that we are declaring an RSE as far as possible for the following day, and as far as we are able, for how long, and ask that:

- If this is the case we will prioritise years 11 and 13 followed by students in other year groups taking a single exam this summer. Please however under these circumstances do not send your child into school if they are ill or should be self-isolating. Any child who is ill, in these year groups will be able to pick up their lessons at home online.
- If your child is in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 or 12 they may be advised to remain at home on certain days in the event of an RSE. However if you are a National Health worker we will accept your children in school in the event of a RSE even if your child's year group is due to remain at home. I do however need you to inform me if this is the case NOW so that we have some idea of the number of students who fall into this category. I therefore ask that you inform us at jroberts@theappletonschool.org if you work for the NHS and would like your child to be in school during a RSE.

In the event of a government decision to close schools for a longer period of time, we will direct our energy and resources to a much more structured and rich online teaching and learning experience for all year groups.

Thank you in anticipation of your support through what are likely to be difficult and challenging weeks for us all. You can be sure that we will make the safety and education of your child and our staff our top priorities.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K Kerridge
Headteacher