

Coronavirus

Parental Update: Friday 20th March

Your messages of support are really appreciated, thank you. Our students and staff continue to be amazing, as we respond to the government directives.

Supporting all of our students as ever remains our top priority. We know that nationally schools are closed to the vast majority of students from Monday.

New/ Key Information

Distance Learning

Google Classroom will be fully live and utilised from Monday; if there are any glitches please bear with us. Guidance has been issued, please refer to it, it can also be found on the website. We are in the process of setting up an FAQ sheet which will be on the website as well. If you are still stuck please email itservices@dmateducation

Trips / visits / events updates:

Year 10 GCSE Geography trip to Leeson House

We are currently monitoring the situation closely with regards to the Year 10 Geography trip to Leeson House, Dorset. We will contact parents / carers as soon as we have further clarification on this.

Year 11 Summer Ball

We are committed to ensuring that there is a formal celebration of our Year 11's time with us at Durrington. We are currently unsure what form this will take. We continue to liaise with The Avisford Park Hilton Hotel with regards to the Year 11 Summer Ball which is scheduled to take place on Thursday 25th June. Further information will be shared with parents/ carers and students as soon as we have clarification from the venue.

Current NHS medical advice (Updated as of 19/3/20)

All reports suggest that the coronavirus will be with us for several months. The government's plan now is to delay the spread of the virus; thus reducing risk and overload to our National Health Service.

If you or anyone you live with:

- has a temperature - feel hot to the touch on your chest or back, and/or

- a new, continuous, cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. If you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

then the advice to follow is:

- For those that live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.
- It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.
- For anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period.
- If any other family members become unwell during the 14-day household-isolation period, after 7 days of their symptoms starting, if they feel better and no longer have a high temperature, they can also return to their normal routine at the end of the 14-days.
- Should a household member develop coronavirus symptoms late in the 14-day household-isolation period (for example, on day 13 or day 14) **the isolation period does not need to be extended, but the person with the new symptoms has to stay at home for 7 days.**
- At the end of the 14-day period, any family member who has not become unwell can leave household isolation.

Standing information

Please be reminded of the following:

- Everyone must wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; this is essential in helping reduce the spread of the disease.

- Can we ask that parents/guardians please do not contact the school office with routine enquiries about Coronavirus as this makes it very challenging for our office team to manage the day to day business of the school.
- Our plan remains that this regular update will answer many of your questions as possible.

Year 11

We are awaiting further advice from the government regarding the arrangements for GCSE gradings as the summer examinations are now cancelled. We have briefed our year 11 students today and assured them that we will keep in contact with them over the coming weeks. It is essential that they continue with their online learning.

School trips

International trips and visits

In relation to upcoming school trips abroad (2 x Iceland and Austria) we can now confirm that following the advice published by Foreign and Commonwealth Office, **all three trips have been cancelled.** We are currently actively working with tour operators and our insurers to progress our claims. We will continue to update those booked on these trips when we have more information. Please await contact from the school, we appreciate your patience at this uncertain time. We also fully appreciate the disappointment that this news will bring to students and their parents and carers and hope to organise other opportunities, when the situation is clearer and more settled.

Forthcoming Events

Here is the updated list of events/trips that are now **not** happening. Where possible we will endeavour to rearrange trips and visits, but this may not be possible for all events. New dates for these will be announced as and when we know

- STEM Fair - Thursday 19th March
- Y10 Enrichment trip to Oxford - Friday 20th March
- DHS Fundraisers Quiz Night - Friday 20th March
- Teenage Booster Vaccinations (for all year 9 students) Friday 20th March
- Y10 Parents Evening - Wednesday 25th March
- Year 8 & 9 Computer Science Escape Rooms Trip - Monday 31st March
- Y7 Hampton Court Trip - 1st April 2020
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Hike - 4th April 2020
- Year 10 Nuffield Theatre Trip - Saturday 4th April 2020
- Dance Live - Saturday 25th April

Summer GCSE Exams

We are aware that this is a very pressured time for Y11 students and the uncertainty around their GCSE exams in the summer will be adding to this anxiety. Updates on the situation regarding GCSE exams this summer can be found on the [OFQUAL website](#). We continue to do all that we can to place our students in the best possible position.

Questions relating to student work in the event of school closure

If a student has any questions relating to the work they should be completing/doing initially they should correspond with their teacher during their normal lesson time via Google Classroom. Should this not be possible they can also email their teacher using **their school** email account accessed <https://www.office.com/?whr=durring.com>

If you have IT issues/an access issue to Google Classroom please email itservices@dmfmat.education

Thank you for your continued support, as ever it is greatly appreciated. We shall continue to keep you updated.

Ms S Marooney
Executive Headteacher/CEO