



Midhurst Rother College

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Part of United Learning

17 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Covid-19 March 17 update

I write to update you in relation to covid-19 and our response to the spread of the illness. I think it is important that I remain in communication with you and I will write to you again in the coming days to provide further updates.

Our response to the outbreak remains unchanged and is as follows:

- 1.) continue to respond in a proportionate way;
- 2.) ensure all steps are taken to keep students and staff safe;
- 3.) use as our starting point for our response the guidance provided by Public Health England;
- 4.) make sure that your child has continued access to their education.

The guidance from the Government is that schools should remain open. It is my firm intention that this will be the case for us at Midhurst Rother College. This may change in the future, either through direction from the Department for Education, or through partial closure due to high levels of staff absence which makes it unsafe for the College to open fully. An explanation of both eventualities follows. Work would be set for students in both cases:

1. **Partial closure:** The College would be closed for one or more year groups. This decision would be made on the afternoon or evening of the day before;
2. **Full closure:** the College would be closed to all students.

As per my previous letter, should the College close either fully or partially work would be set for students in line with their curriculum and they must follow their College timetable; if they have French period 1, they should complete French during that time. I confirm that we will set work for students using our Connect system. It will be set as homework and will appear on the students' timeline, with deadlines for work to be returned to staff. Staff are also able to contact students via their office 365 email accounts.

To provide some reassurance, I would like to make you aware that staff have been planning for a full or partial closure for the last ten days in order that your child's education is not impeded. We are preparing paper-based resources for students to complete, should the need arise, for students to take home wherever possible. The tasks that students must complete will vary from subject to subject and will include exam papers, revision booklets, online packages, research, essays and projects. These can all be uploaded onto connect by staff and students can return work to their teacher for assessment.

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I held assemblies with every year group today to talk about the coronavirus. The focus of my assembly was to reassure students about the illness and to remind them about the measures they should take to stay safe and keep healthy. Students have access to hand sanitiser gel in College and we are making sure door handles and bannisters are cleaned throughout the day.

With regard to self-isolation, the current guidance (at the time of writing) is that whole families should self-isolate for 14 days if one or more members of the family has either of the following symptoms:

- A persistent dry cough
- A high temperature

Please can I ask you to adhere to this guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

I have taken the decision to cancel or postpone all external events until after the Easter break and we will inform you about new dates shortly. This means that we will not hold parents' evening, the spring concert, careers fair or the year 12 UCAS fair. All sports fixtures against other schools have also been cancelled until further notice.

We are in uncharted waters in relation to this epidemic. I would like to assure parents / carers that we are doing all we can to keep the College open, maintain high quality education for your child and keep them safe.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Edwards', with a small flourish at the end.

Stuart Edwards
Principal