

ST. JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC AND ANGLICAN HIGH SCHOOL
YSGOL UWCHRADD
GATHOLIG AC ANGLICANAIDD SANT JOSEFF
Headteacher / Pennaeth: Mr. C. Wilkinson



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Re: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

As you may be aware, the UK Government's guidance on the coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed status from the 'contain' to 'delaying' phase. Please be assured we are taking all of the necessary steps in response to this in order to protect our community. Specifically, we are following official guidance shared by the Local Authority, Public Health Wales and the UK Government.

The school remains open, which is the current official guidance we have been given. However, we have taken a number of precautionary measures to support the wellbeing of students and staff (as well as associated risks to respective families). These include

- Reinforcing student awareness of the precautionary measures, particularly around good hand and respiratory hygiene;
- To provide infection control, cleaning arrangements within the school have been further enhanced. This includes additional cleaning of regularly touched surfaces;
- Regrettably, all non-essential educational experiences not directly linked to the school curriculum will be postponed or cancelled (ie. sporting fixtures and visiting speakers etc).
- We are reviewing all educational visits and trips. Be assured we are working closely with the insurers and travel companies to support families in receiving a full refund where an overseas visit has been cancelled; and
- We are asking staff to cancel attendance at any non-essential meetings to help minimise the risk to themselves and others.

We would ask that all members of the community continue to attend school as normal unless a student (or staff member) develops a high temperature and/or a new continuous cough. Where this symptom is displayed they should remain at home for 7 days. The current advice is that you should not visit a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. However, should the condition worsen; does not improve after 7 days; or the student/staff member is unable to cope with the symptoms then Public Health Wales should be contacted via 111.

If your child feels unwell on the school premises then we will contact you in the normal way to arrange collection. Therefore, if you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible. You will appreciate that we have a number of students who have pre-existing medical conditions which make them more vulnerable to the risk of viral infection. Consequently, if your child is displaying any of the symptoms identified by Public Health Wales please let us know.

The school will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to operate safely. However, be assured that I am working with staff to prepare for this scenario. In the event of a school closure, staff will not be able to attend the school site and therefore we will need to be able to operate remotely to communicate with the school community. Our staff are busily preparing materials to support distance learning should there be a forced partial/full closure. Students will be reminded of these protocols during their lessons. This is particularly relevant for students about to embark on public GCSE examinations in the summer. We are working closely with Qualifications Wales, the examination regulator, as well as the WJEC to receive the most up-to-date guidance.

We have created a dedicated section of our school website to reinforce key messages and how student work will be shared, if required. However, please download our schoolapp (instructions are on the website) and make sure you follow our twitter account @SJ_WXM where we will also provide updates in the event of a forced closure. Please keep in mind that we are only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. As it stands, there are currently no plans to close.

I appreciate that this is a worrying time for everyone. If you haven't already, then I would encourage you to talk to your child(ren) about the coronavirus. [BBC Newsround](#) provides regular updates which may be helpful for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) provides practical steps for older children to help cope with anxiety.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to our incredible staff who are preparing for any eventuality. I should also like to thank you for your continued support and understanding during this extremely challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Wilkinson', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Mr C Wilkinson
Headteacher