

18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As promised I will continue to update you following advice from Public Health England.

All students and staff who have low immunity should be self-isolating at home.

Any students or staff who are in a household with someone who is showing the symptoms of persistent coughing or a temperature of over 38 degrees should self isolate at home.

As you are aware, the impact this has had on The Cumberland School staffing has meant it is not operationally possible to run a school safely, so we took the decision to send Year 7, 8 and 9 home, effective from today. Teachers of Year 7, 8 and 9 will be set work on the DPR and lessons via shared Google Drives. The school will remain open for Year 10 and Year 11 until further notice.

We have taken the following steps:

- Briefed all students on how to log on online and see resources from home.
- Trained all students on how to access 'Google Meets' so learning can continue remotely, in the event they are also sent home.
- Given all students work booklets from various subjects for them to complete at home.
- Given students advice on washing hands and what self-isolating means.
- Provided all students with guidance and instructions for learning from home. This is also on the school website.

Due to the need for social distancing and staffing levels, we have temporarily suspended the following until further notice:

- Breakfast club
- Homework club
- Exam skills
- School trips
- Non-essential visitors
- Detentions
- Parents' evenings. Year 9 parents, please await a separate letter with further details.

At present we are unsure of how long the school will remain open for the other year groups but I will keep you posted on this.

If you are a parent of Year 7- 9 students, please be assured that the school's priority is to continue to provide quality education for your child, in spite of this national crisis. You may be anxious about the impact this will have on your child's learning but know that your child's teachers are anxious to ensure they support your child's learning as best as they can.

Despite this unique set of circumstances, we are one of the best-prepared schools in dealing with a national crisis like this. The work that we are setting directly follows our curriculum and our DPR ensures students can continue the planned learning at home. It is important to note, therefore, that the extent your child engages with the DPR will dictate the progress your child makes in this time. Your support is paramount in making this happen and I thank you in advance for your efforts in making this happen. We have compiled a set of Frequently Asked Questions which you can access here and on our website. [The Frequently Asked Questions, Learning Guide for Students](#) on our website and your child's RM Unify Credentials will also be sent to you through the post.

Thank you for your understanding and support in these difficult times. Your personal words of support and thanks mean a lot to the staff and I. We will continue to do all we can to ensure your child receives the best education we can provide.

Yours faithfully



Omar Deria  
Head of School