



# SUMMERHILL SCHOOL

17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE – TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2020

I am writing to you to update you on the school's current position with regards to COVID-19 as of today, Tuesday 17 March 2020. As you know, the position is constantly changing and as a school and a community we will need to change how we operate to reflect this. I apologise in advance if this means that our advice and procedures alter at short notice over the coming days, but I want to be open and transparent with regards to the situation.

The Government have asked that any households showing symptoms of a new cough or temperature **must ALL self-isolate for 14 days** and any vulnerable groups must 'shield' themselves for the next 12 weeks. This has massive implications for us all and we will have to work hard to overcome them.

At present, the Government are still requesting that schools stay open and we will continue to follow this directive. However, if our staffing structure is so significantly affected meaning we cannot guarantee the safety of students, we will have to move to either partial or full closure. Partial closure means that we will remain open for certain year groups in order to allow some education to continue. In this case, we will prioritise Year 11. The decision to move towards either of these stages will be shared with parents as soon as possible. We know that this will cause significant disruption in terms of child care arrangements, but the changing situation will leave us with no alternative.

As of today, we have 10 staff absent from school, either self-isolating or due to other underlying health issues which puts them in the 'at risk' group. At present, we have approximately 40 students/families self-isolating. We will accept and wholeheartedly support all parental decisions at the current time with regard to attendance at school. Please register any student absence in the normal way or by email to [info@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk)

Can I remind parents that we are not allowing admittance of visitors into the school at this time and your co-operation with this is greatly appreciated. Parental communication with regard to student issues will be made by phone or email.

Despite our best efforts to keep our Year 11 revision sessions going these will be subject to staffing availability. We understand that this is a stressful time for all our parents and students, especially those in Year 11 facing their GCSEs. We will aim to mitigate against this as much as possible, but this may prove to be increasingly difficult.

The safety of our students and staff continues to be our top priority and as a school we will make sure we make the right decisions, at the right time, for the well-being of all of our school community.

Yours sincerely

**Martyn Palfreyman**  
Headteacher



01384 816165  
@ SummerhillSch  
[summerhill.dudley.sch.uk](http://summerhill.dudley.sch.uk)  
summerhillkingswinford

Lodge Lane  
Kingswinford  
DY6 9XE

Headteacher: Martyn Palfreyman