



BISHOP HEDLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Update letter – Coronavirus 16 03 2020

At Bishop Hedley Catholic High School we are committed to ensuring your child has the safest and best experience with us. Any information we send to you will be from Public Health Wales, the NHS or the local authority.

I will contact you regularly through Social Media and email as matters develop, but as things stand, here is a summary of our current position in dealing with the unprecedented situation:

- The school remains **open** for all. We will be monitoring our staffing situation daily and have plans in place if we must make amendments to our normal teaching situation. This may include closure or partial closure of the school, if this is the case we will inform you as soon as a decision has been made.
- Teachers are planning for the possibility of school closures and are ensuring that teaching materials are available electronically. If school closes, it would be beneficial if every pupil had access to a computer and Wi-Fi. Teachers will communicate with pupils through Google Classroom and other online platforms. If you do not have internet access at home, please contact the school so that we can offer you alternative provision for home working.
 - If your child does not have log in details for Google Classroom, GCSE pod or any other online resources used by subject teachers, please inform the school immediately.
- We will continue to contact parents and carers through Social Media and email. If we do not have an up to date email address in the school system, please could you email the office at office@bishophedleyhigh.merthyr.sch.uk We are also encouraging parents to keep updated through our Facebook (Bishop Hedley High School) and Twitter (@BishopHedleyRC) accounts.
- Every school educational visit / trip has either been postponed or cancelled until Easter.
- We will attempt to keep activities within school as normal as possible, however all assemblies will be in class rather than whole school. Break-times will be managed to limit the number of pupils in the Hall, and we are asking parents to send children in with a snack as the canteen will not be serving food at break because lunchtimes will be staggered. Again this is to limit the number of children in an area at any given time – Year 7 & 8 will have lunch at 12.30, and Years 9, 10 & 11 at the usual time of 1.15pm - this gives time for tables and chairs to be fully disinfected between service.
- School times remain the same. We will also postpone non-essential visitors into school.
- As things stand, teacher led extra-curricular activities are cancelled. This is a precautionary measure as many of the clubs use resources which are shared and it is difficult for us to control the sharing of objects.
- Please encourage your child to wash his/her hands regularly.
- Remember the national guidance is that if any member of the school community displays any signs of the virus, they must inform the school and self-isolate for 14 days along with everyone else in the family.

For more information please go to:

<https://phw.nhs.wales/coronavirus/>



<https://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/SelfAssessments/symptomcheckers/?ScName=CoronaVirusCOVID19&SCTid=175>

- If any family requires any practical support during these difficult times, please contact the school in order for us to offer any support that we can (email: office@bishophedleyhigh.merthyr.sch.uk)

To protect yourself and other people:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Please be assured that we are doing everything we can in order to prevent the spread of illnesses. This includes:

- supervising hand washing
- demonstrating good hand washing techniques daily
- routinely handwashing throughout the day hand sanitiser is always available
- All areas of the school being cleaned and disinfected each night

We will continue to keep everyone updated as we are given more information.

Kind regards,



Mrs Sarah Hopkins
Headteacher

