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16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Coronavirus - Contingency Planning for Potential School Closure**

As things stand, we have **not** been informed of any imminent school closure. However, given that it is a strategy that has been flagged in the Government's approach to the 'delay stage' of their response to the Coronavirus – we need to be prepared, especially as it may come at short notice.

I would like to share with you the plans that have been set in place at Bedale High School should such an event come to pass. To date, we have been following the PHE and DFE guidance (circulated to schools daily). We have shared and will continue to share this evolving advice with you by text, Facebook, the school website and the newsletter.

Our staff and students have been practising the good hygiene habits as part of this guidance, and in line with the advice that has been published, we have advised anyone with new coughs or fevers to self-isolate.

All students and teachers have a school email address with Microsoft Office 365. In addition, we have our ShowMyHomework online platform. Both of these will allow staff to contact students remotely, and vice versa. Information regarding the installation of Microsoft Office 365 at home, together with the installation of the ShowMyHomework app, will soon be available on the school website under 'Latest News' on the homepage.

In the event of closure, teachers and designated support staff are planning to be in contact with students working remotely. Students should check their school email and ShowMyHomework accounts daily. We do ask that school hours are respected in any online communications, and understanding must be given (on both sides) to the fact that internet access may be limited in some areas. Students will also be advised, in the event of closure, to bring home any necessary books and notes that will support study from home. For Year 11 students especially, it would be a good idea for them to ensure they are bringing their books and study resources home each day, rather than leaving them in school (in case of sudden closure).

Students in Yr 11 will naturally feel anxious about missing teaching in the lead-up to their exams. But they should feel reassured that they have covered the work already in most cases, and they just need to make the most of the opportunity to form a really organised and disciplined revision plan to complete at home. Support will be there from their form tutors and teachers via email. Work packs are being produced and staff are prioritising the setting of exam-prep work on SMH. We are also looking into the possibility of video-conferencing though this remains at experimental stage thus far.



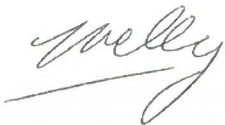
A list of staff work email addresses will shortly be distributed. We ask that parents and students understand that replies to emails are unlikely to be instant, but that we will endeavour to respond to any queries in a timely fashion.

Some families may also be worrying about children who are entitled to Free School Meals. I am looking into this and we will endeavour to come up with a realistic plan of support, subject to the restrictions that may be in place if we do have to close.

We will keep you advised and up to date on any further developments. In the event of a sudden school closure, parents will be informed by text message in the first instance, however, the media may take precedence in this regard. We will continue all other contact by text, email, Facebook and the school website.

Finally, on behalf of our governors, staff and students, I would like to thank you for your support as we work our way together through this unprecedented situation. In the event of closure, I hope that we are able to resume 'normal service' as soon as possible. But please rest assured that we will work hard to maintain open channels of communication throughout. In the meantime, we continue to work together to make school as 'normal' as possible, while taking the sensible precautions that are warranted by this situation.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Kelly', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tom Kelly  
Headteacher  
Bedale High School