

23 March 2020

TO ALL FAMILIES

Dear Families

As you will probably be aware, there has been a significant change in the advice being given by government with respect to pupils and students who are currently attending school. The advice that has been published makes clear that, unless it is absolutely vital, pupils and students should remain at home for the foreseeable future.

The most recent advice, published on 22 March 2020, states:

Children with a parent or carer who is listed on the government's critical worker list should be considered for a school place, so long as their job cannot be done from home. Many parents working in these sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home, and every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading

From tomorrow, 24 March, the majority of pupils and students should stay at home. Pupils and students who have a parent who is a critical worker, and whose family cannot safely care for them at home, can continue to send their child to school. We will contact these families directly. **Unless you hear from us, please assume that your child should stay at home and not attend school: if you do not hear from us, please keep your child at home.**

Alongside this measure, we will be reducing the number of staff who physically attend work. Staff will work in smaller groups to promote social distancing and will attend work on a rota basis. When staff are not attending work, they will still be working from home and will continue to ensure that suitable work is being set for pupils and students.

We need to make sure that we are all, staff and families, doing our bit to support the country's efforts to combat this virus. These measures will enable us to effectively enforce the social distancing advice, reducing the risk of infection to both pupils, students and staff.

We are keen to continue to support those pupils and students from key worker families, but only where it is clear that the child cannot be safely cared for at home. So, if you do not hear from us and, after reading the above government advice, you believe that your child should continue attending, please email slt@stdomicsschool.org.uk as a matter of urgency. Please do not automatically send your child in without contacting us.

A small number of pupils/students are currently receiving formal support from social care, and we will be liaising directly with families of those pupils and students, and with their allocated social workers.

continued/.....

2

23 March 2020

TO ALL FAMILIES

We are also continuing to work with our caterers to set up a regular delivery of packed lunches for any pupil who is at home who is eligible for free school meals. Once we know more information regarding the vouchers that government have promised, we will liaise directly with eligible families.

Finally, we wanted to say thank you to all key worker parents for all the hard work that is being done to combat the spread of Coronavirus. We know that there are a lot of front-line staff who work in health and in other sectors that are vital in the ongoing response: thank-you for all your hard work. Please do email me at emurphy@stdominicsschool.org.uk with any questions, comments etc.

Yours sincerely,



Emmet Murphy
Interim Head of Education & Vice Principal



St Dominic's School, Hambledon, Godalming, Surrey GU8 4DX
01428 684 693
www.stdominicsschool.org.uk
office@stdominicsschool.org.uk
Principal: Angela Drayton



St Dominic's School is part of the Orchard Hill College Academy Trust: a company limited by guarantee
Registered in England, Company Number: 08476149
Registered Office: Orchard Hill College Academy Trust, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey. SM2 5AS.