Dear Parent/Guardian,

Today’s update brings positive news. **The school will be open as normal for all year groups tomorrow Thursday 19th March 2020.** I am quietly confident we will also be **open fully on Friday 20th March** subject to any government announcement or rapid change in staffing absence. I will confirm by 1pm tomorrow. I am incredibly proud of our staff and students who are showing such resilience and a huge amount of flexibility on their part with regards their own children and their own child care arrangements to keep going. There is currently no increase in staff absence and no staff showing any signs or symptoms of the virus. Student absence has dropped on yesterday but that is to be expected and it’s holding steady. Please can I confirm again that to date we have not got any students who have been formally diagnosed with the virus. Yes, students have not come in as a precaution but none due to having the virus. Lessons are carrying on as normal.

I still want to advise that there could be a potential partial closure but this is now a consideration for next week subject to any government announcement based on our staffing levels. This will specifically mean that the school will be closed for one- or two- year groups in the first instance. Parents would be informed on our website and by text the day before by 7pm. This initially would be for one day and we would update you by 6pm if the school was then open the following day for those year groups. There is no risk of this happening currently and **we would expect students to continue to attend school as normal.**

**Precautions:**

**Assemblies Next Week:**

As a precaution there will be no assemblies next week based on the latest advice. Students will remain in tutor for registration and then go to lessons normally period 1.

**Cleaning:**

We will continue receiving daily updates from the Department for Education and Public Health relating to the coronavirus. We are currently making sure that we follow guidelines regarding hand washing techniques, hygiene and general cleanliness.

**Year 11 & Year 10 Exams Anxiety:**

We totally understand the concern our year 10 & 11 students are feeling regarding the formal exam window coming up starting in May. Please do not believe what you read on social media or in the press, it only adds to the pupil’s stress and worry. Please may I confirm that officially there are no plans to change the summer exam timetable for year 11 and a small group taking subjects early in year 10. We do not expect this to change and are preparing as normal. The students are doing well and should remain focused and working hard in lessons.

**Easter School – Year 11**

Currently year 11 Easter school is still on as planned which I believe year 11 parents and pupils have received a letter about with the timetable. This again will be subject to any government announcement but our staff are committed to still running it. We will update any changes.

**Is Mentoring Day still on?**

Mentoring Day is planned for Thursday 2nd April 2020. However, if the school is closed mentoring day reports will be posted home.

**Year 9 Options Appointments on Mentoring day**

Please note for Year 9 parents and pupils the option letters identifying which three subjects we are recommending your students continues with next year and which one is dropped will also be posted home with the mentoring day letter. If you have any questions regarding the content and recommendation of subjects please email myself on head@stgcc.co.uk or edouglas@stgcc.co.uk

Regards



Mr James Habberley

Head Teacher