



St. Joseph's RC High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

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Headteacher/Pennaeth: Mrs J Jarrett BA(Hons) M.A NPQH

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In light of the coronavirus situation evolving at a pace, I would like to reassure you that whilst there have been no reported cases at the school to date, measures are being taken in line with current advice from Public Health Wales and the UK Government.

The current official guidance we have been given is for schools to remain open. However, we have taken a number of precautionary measures to support the wellbeing of students and staff (as well as associated risks to respective families). We are reinforcing student awareness of the precautionary measures, particularly around good hand and respiratory hygiene. To provide infection control, cleaning arrangements within the school have been further enhanced. This includes additional cleaning of regularly touched surfaces and regular checks of all toilets to ensure that there is soap available in every toilet throughout the day. Further advice and information can be found via this link: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): UK government response - GOV.UK](#)

A number of events will be postponed or cancelled including:

- Year 9 Parents' Evening – 19th March
- Gym and Dance Show – 25th March
- Year 10 Parents' evening - 31st March
- Sporting fixtures

Similarly, we are asking staff to cancel attendance at any non-essential meetings to help minimise the risk. As I am sure you will appreciate, the protocol of "social distancing" in a school is very difficult to introduce, therefore, our programme for assemblies and mass will also be postponed for the foreseeable future.

Whilst we are currently adhering to advice and remaining open as a school, we are mindful of the fact that closure may be inevitable. However, be assured that I am working with the senior leadership team to prepare for this scenario. In the event of a school closure, staff will not be able to attend the school site and therefore we will need to be able to operate remotely to communicate with the school community. Our staff are busily preparing materials to support distance learning should there be a forced partial/full closure. Students will be reminded of these protocols this week. This is particularly relevant for students about to embark on public examinations in the summer. Our examinations team is working closely with Qualifications Wales, the examination regulator, as well as the WJEC to receive the most up-to-date guidance. We have been advised that Qualifications Wales is monitoring the situation and we will remain in regular contact with the WJEC regarding any further advice and updates.

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Over the course of the next couple of days, we will be creating a dedicated section of our school website to reinforce key messages including how student work will be shared, if required. However, please make sure you follow or sign up to our school Twitter account [@sjhsnewport](#) where we will also provide updates in the event of a forced closure. Also, please check your inbox regularly for any emails/updates you may receive from us via Schoolcomms.

I appreciate that this is a worrying time for everyone. If you haven't already, then I would encourage you to talk to your child(ren) about the coronavirus. [BBC Newsround](#) provides regular updates which may be helpful for younger children and [Young Minds](#) provides practical steps for older children to help cope with anxiety.

Please keep in mind that I am only sending out this information to help the school community prepare for partial or full school closure. I will communicate with families/students on a daily basis to provide updates.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we continue to work together to provide a safe environment for our community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jarrett". The script is cursive and elegant.

Mrs J Jarrett
Headteacher

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