



17 March 2020

Dear Parents

COVID-19 update for all parents

Today has been an excellent day in College with all students conducting themselves in a sensible, mature manner. It was a day on which the character of our students and staff really did shine through.

I also recognise that today was difficult for those in our school community who had to begin a period of self-isolation as a result of the most recent government guidance, particularly for those who developed symptoms during the day.

Many of you know that yesterday, the government introduced new guidance on whole household isolation in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

- If you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.
- For anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.
- The symptoms are a high temperature (37.8 degrees and above) and/or a new, continuous cough. The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

We will remain open until we are told to close, or until such time we are unable to continue to provide a safe and purposeful environment for staff and students. We will notify parents if we have to close, therefore if you hear nothing, it is business as usual.

Our response, as communicated last night, remains that:

1. Students who have either of the symptoms spoken about (a new, persistent cough or temperature) must not come into College and must ensure that they self-isolate along with all members of their household. We will ask that parents collect their children if they come into school with either a temperature or a new, persistent cough.

We recognise that a persistent cough can be difficult to judge. Our approach has been, and will continue to be, cautious and erring on the side of protecting the wider school community and society as a whole. It is our understanding that this is what is being asked of us all at this time.

2. We will no longer run any non-essential activities, including co-curricular activities, after school detentions and academic support sessions. These will not run until further notice. However, College will remain open until 5.30pm for students to remain on site if it's necessary for them to do so.
3. No visitors will be permitted to visit College, with the exception of contractors carrying out essential work (although this will be avoided where possible) and any individuals providing vital welfare/emotional support services to students. Parent meetings should be avoided, with a phone conversation taking place instead.

With a large number of students now at home and the likelihood of a school closure increasing, we would like to draw your attention to the wealth of support available on ITSLearning. Staff have been working over the last week or so to put as many resources on this online platform as possible. Many of these are now available for students to use. This facility is being developed at pace with new resources and tasks being added each day. At present, priority has been given to Year 11 and Year 13 classes but resources will be added for other year groups to ensure all students are catered for.

ITSLearning can be accessed by students via the [Parent and Student Hub](#) on the Emmanuel College website. Students can also access ITSLearning via their mobile devices, with support available [here](#). We have set up a new email address that can be used if students, or parents of students, who are at home need support with accessing ITSLearning or have any other queries relating to learning at home:
academicsupport@emmanuelctc.org.uk

To ensure continued access to home learning for all students, students may require Microsoft Office to make progress through their set tasks. We have given each student access to the Microsoft Office tool [here](#), or by searching for **portal.office.com** via their web browser.

They should use the following details to login:

Username: username@esf-schools.org.uk (their username is their student ID, for example 1150199), therefore 1150199@esf-schools.org.uk)

Password: their usual network password

May I thank you for your continued understanding and patience at this time. I would like to reassure you that we will continue to monitor the government guidance closely and do all we can to maintain the very best provision for our students.

Matthew Waterfield
Principal