

Coronavirus - URGENT SCHOOL UPDATE **

Dear Parents/Carers

The spread of coronavirus presents a significant concern for us all. Queen Elizabeth Grammar School has a responsibility to take appropriate action to minimise the spread of the virus and to keep students and staff safe. The current situation remains that we have no confirmed cases amongst students or staff and we would wish to maintain this position. It is for this reason that I have today taken the decision to restrict some activities in the best interests of all associated with the school.

I have cancelled a number of school trips as they pose a threat of unnecessary, increased exposure to the virus for both staff and students. The trips affected are:

From 12/03/20 Carlisle Music Festival – the participation of school choirs/groups will be withdrawn. Parents are free to make their own decisions about the participation of individual students although we would urge caution and that parents keep abreast of the latest advice from the government as referred to in my previous ParentMails.

12/03/20 Yr7 &8 trip to the Lowry Theatre. If there are issues with students not being supervised or able to go home at the normal time, the Library will accommodate any in this position until 6pm if necessary.

13/03/20 Design Technology Rotary Competition in Kendal for Yrs 10-13

18/03/20 Yr10 History trip to Edinburgh

20/03/20 Yr7 & 8 Maths Challenge to Caldew School

24 &25/03/20 Yr7 & 8 Millfield Cross Country Competition

25&26/03/20 Yr10 Manjushri Temple visit

The cancellations will also affect all sporting fixtures until further notice. Primary school visits which have in the past included ex-students from Year 7 students, will no longer involve students. The Year 8 geography field trip on 23rd March is currently going ahead due to the nature of the event.

We will review relevant cancellation policies and notify affected parents about refunds as soon as possible. All future trips and activities will be kept under review and I will notify parents of any further changes as they arise. Current advice from the FCO indicates that the ski trip to Austria and the music trip to Belgium can go ahead, but again these are under review and we are following developments on the FCO website closely.

The decision has also been taken to postpone the Year 7 Parents' Evening on 25th March and steps will be taken to re-arrange this as soon as possible. If parents have any pressing concerns, please feel free to contact relevant staff by email or telephone. We would also like to minimise parental visits to school during this time and would request that parents make a phone call or send an email instead. Where meetings are required, each will be reviewed and risk assessed on a case by case basis.

Finally, I would ask you all to consider any travel plans you may have for the Easter break, especially if your child is in Year 11 or 13. Please check with the latest FCO advice regarding overseas travel and consider the potential impact of a 14-day period of isolation on your child's performance immediately prior to their examinations.

I am sorry for the upset and distress these actions may cause, especially when so much work and preparation has been put in by students, parents and staff to many of the events cancelled. I hope you support the decisions and understand and agree with the motivation. The safety and wellbeing of your children has to be our primary concern.

Yours sincerely

P Buckland
Headteacher