To Parents and Carers of students in Years 11 and 13

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sure that you are all concerned about the possible impact of the spread of the coronavirus on the exams this summer. Whilst many of the exams are still some weeks away, this is the vital time for preparation and practice, and a time when teaching can truly make a significant difference to the final outcome.

Lessons where the teacher is going through prior learning are critical for the consolidation of learning, with teachers able to correct misunderstandings and identify specific areas for intervention. The camaraderie and presence of friends are also important and strongly support student well-being.

As a school, we are regularly checking updates from the Department of Education, the Department of Public Health England and Ofqual. The latest message from Ofqual can be accessed here: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-statement-on-coronavirus.

I have been sending parents the link to latest advice each day and this clearly outlines the scenarios for returning travellers, those who have been in contact with returning travellers and, of course, those who are displaying symptoms, have been diagnosed, or who have had contact with anyone who might have the virus. In school, as I am sure you are doing at home, we are encouraging good hand hygiene and ask you to let us know if you have any concerns.

The school remains open and all lessons are running. As you will see, the advice is to continue to prepare for exams and other assessments in the usual way. This is exactly what we are doing, whilst keeping abreast with developments and advice throughout the day.

As a precaution, I would suggest, if you have not done this already, that you encourage your child to keep as many revision books as possible at home and to ensure that they have all the necessary login details for on-line learning platforms and other useful revision sites, so that if they do need to have a period of time in isolation, they are well organised and able to continue to prepare for their exams.

In the meantime, I expect to see all students at school every day.

With best wishes,

Cath Smith
Executive Headteacher