



In all things faithful

18th March

Dear parents/carers

Re: Update on Coronavirus and partial school closure

I am sure that you are acutely aware of the outbreak of the coronavirus and the increase in the number of confirmed cases, both locally and nationally.

The change of national advice, namely, if you are in touch with someone with a cough or temperature, you are to self-isolate for 14 days, has had a significant impact on staffing levels at school. In essence, staff have been forced to self-isolate.

As a result of this, we have decided to **instigate a partial school closure**. The school will therefore be shut, until further notice for Years **7, 8 and 9**. I know that this may cause much inconvenience, but I hope that you understand that this decision was not taken lightly and has been forced upon us due to numerous factors beyond our control.

Staff in school will ensure that all pupils will continue to be safe and, as far as possible, receive a good education. Furthermore, it will allow staff to work on resources that we are creating for pupils to access on-line.

Can I add, that all week, staff are working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that appropriate work is accessible to our great pupils to facilitate distance learning, if, and when, the need arises because of complete school closure. Furthermore, they are working incredibly hard to ensure that the inevitable disruption is managed as best we can under extremely difficult circumstances. Equally, pupils are working really hard and keeping calm despite the great uncertainty all around them. As Headteacher, I could not be more proud of both the staff and the pupils; they truly are great ambassadors for the St Damian's community.

Finally, can I say a genuine thanks in advance for your patience, support and understanding at this difficult time. Working together has always been the 'St Damian's way'.

God bless you and your families.

Mr Logue

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