



SEDBERGH
SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1525

Sedbergh Schools' response to the risk presented by Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Statement No 9 issued on 17 March 2020

A lot is happening in a short space of time. Many of you have been kind enough to offer us thanks for the frequency of communication and the rapid and sensitive nature of our response to parental enquiries and requests. These will remain a priority.

This bulletin is a general update and follows several previous bulletins. These have been catalogued on our website for greater ease of use and may be found by following the link from the landing page. Additional documents about ongoing educational arrangements will be posted there by the Headmasters of the Senior and Prep Schools.

At the time of writing a small number of staff in both Schools have self-isolated, while some pupils have returned home as a result of elevated temperatures. It is inevitable that more will follow during the course of the week whether or not they have contracted the Coronavirus Covid-19.

Yesterday's announcement by the Prime Minister introduced new protection measures relevant to our Schools:

- Anyone with a high temperature or a new and continuous cough will be required to remain at home for 14 days although exercise at a safe distance from others may continue.
- Non-essential contact and unnecessary travel will stop.
- Home working will commence wherever possible and staff are advised to avoid pubs and other social venues.
- People in higher risk categories should avoid all social contact and will be required to isolate themselves for 12 weeks from the coming weekend.

There was no information about School closure.

The Prime Minister's statement means that Schools are required to continue to care for and educate pupils but to constrain interaction with visitors, including parents of pupils. This has led us to take the following actions:

.../cont'd

- School fixtures have been cancelled for the remainder of Term. The Rosslyn Park Sevens tournament has been cancelled by the organisers.
- The Prep School Year 8 Play and House Music competition will take place in front of pupils and staff, but we regret that parents will not be invited to join the audience.
- The National Rugby Tens tournament at Sedbergh School has been cancelled.
- The final of the BBC Young Choir of the Year competition has been postponed.
- The Wilson Run is under review, a statement will be forthcoming later this week.
- Trips and tours are under review, we will contact relevant parents once details have been negotiated with the tour companies.

Many parents may have seen news items about the impact of the virus on GCSE and A Level exams. We continue to follow the detail of this debate carefully and are alive to the possibilities of a compressed timescale in June/July or a later series of exams in September. Whatever the outcome it is certain that any changes will delay the exams which gives us time to make the necessary preparations. We will make it our highest priority that pupils are fully prepared for their exams. We will continue to monitor this subject and will communicate with parents at the earliest opportunity.

Andrew Fleck
Principal

17 March 2020

Sedbergh School
Sedbergh, Cumbria
LA10 5HG

Tel 015396 20535
www.sedberghschool.org