



Blaise High School, Station Road, Henbury, Bristol,
BS10 7QH
Tel: 0117 903 0100
email: info@blaisehighschool.co.uk
www.blaisehighschool.co.uk
Headteacher: Katherine Brown

KBO/JBI
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Dear Parents / Carers

I'm writing in response to the continuing national situation with the COVID-19 virus. Last night the Prime Minister gave a briefing in which he advised social distancing and that anyone who falls into a number of vulnerable groups should self-isolate as a precaution. You can view the latest advice on self-isolation using the link below, and I strongly encourage you to read this if you haven't already.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

At this stage, Blaise High School remains open. We are taking – and will continue to take – all reasonable precautions. As such, a number of staff will be self-isolating – mostly because they fall into a vulnerable group. As a result of staff shortages, we have been teaching students today in larger groups than normal. This is likely to continue over the next few days, and I wanted to extend my appreciation for staff, students and parents who have been resilient and flexible as a result of this. We will keep you updated throughout the week; we hugely appreciate your patience as the situation is changing daily. We have also made the decision to cancel all after-school clubs and school trips arranged for this term from tomorrow. Where you have paid for the trip in advance, we will contact you regarding whether refunds can be issued as soon as we have heard back from the venue.

As I said in my letter on Friday, Blaise High School has and will continue to follow guidance set out from the Department of Education and Public Health England. Full details of the latest guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We are continuing to prepare for all possibilities, including a full closure. I am sharing our plans for online and work pack resources with students and staff over the next few days. Should we close, please rest assured that we are very well prepared to ensure your children can continue to learn from home.

Yours faithfully

Ms K Brown
Headteacher