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Deputy Head Teacher  
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School Business Manager  
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17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

In light of the rapidly-developing situation with the Pandemic we are facing, I would like to reassure you that every step is being taken to be prepared for the event of the school being forced to close. Last night staff met to ensure all colleagues are aware of what our approach is in the event of a closure. As I hope your son has told you, preparations for the closure started with the students last week. We are as prepared as we can be for the difficult period that lies ahead.

Students have been told in assemblies and form times about the need to follow sensible precautions to avoid the spread of the virus. The site team have been focusing the cleaning effort on surfaces that people touch. Currently we have a small number of staff absent, but realistically that situation will alter. Therefore, there may be the need for Year groups to work at home in the coming days, we will obviously keep you fully informed if that becomes necessary.

If the school is obliged to close altogether, either by direction from Public Health England, or through a lack of staff, students will be notified of work set by teachers via their school email address. Students have been reminded over the past few days how to access their email address. The work should be completed in their subject exercise book, or where that is not possible, their blue 'Independent Learning' exercise books which were distributed to every student from last Friday onwards. This work should be completed neatly and to the best of their ability.

Just to remind you, the advice from the government is that anyone with a fever or persistent cough should stay at home for fourteen days or if anyone in the household develops those symptoms. I am aware that we have families who have already been forced to self-isolate. These students are able already to access Doodle and GCSEPod, and supporting work for students not in school will be available from the school website from tomorrow.

We have extensive online learning resources which are already available for students (Doodle and GCSEPod) and are used as a matter of course anyway and the links can be found on our website at <http://st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk/links>. If you do not have access please contact [itsupport@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:itsupport@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk) or Mrs Turner on [ltr@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:ltr@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk).

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*Our school is an inclusive place of learning that celebrates and welcomes diversity.  
Every member of our community is a unique and special creation of God and is known,  
cared for and valued for the contribution they make.  
Every student is challenged and supported to achieve his best.*



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**Assemblies and all extra-curricular activities have been cancelled going forward as the school concentrates on teaching and learning. The only exceptions are Yr 11 Booster classes and homework club where staff are available.**

**If and when the situation changes we will of course let you know. Please keep the staff and students of St Columba's in your prayers at this difficult time.**

Yours sincerely



**Mr Evans**  
**Deputy Head Teacher**