



Contingency Planning COVID-19

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you further regarding the current situation with coronavirus. From Monday 23rd March 2020, the school will be closed until further notice. We all understand the necessity of this but we do not underestimate how unsettling it is for our entire SMSJ community.

For students who were facing public examinations this summer, the government is yet to announce how it will be ensured that students get the qualifications they were working towards. Our senior staff will make certain that our processes and procedures ensure our students are rewarded with the grades and qualifications that they deserve and need. We simply do not have the answers right now, but I can reassure you that I will continue to update you all about accreditation as further information is shared by the government.

We have let our students know that education is about more than examinations and we are incredibly proud of the resilience our 'Diamond' Year 11 cohort, have shown during this time.

From Monday 23rd March 2020, SMSJ CE School will be closed to all students.

For all students, the school's business continuity plan is for distance learning. SMSJ staff will continue to support distance learning which is available through our various online platforms. Students should follow their usual timetable as closely as feasible. We have also included physical activities for all phases to ensure that students undertake at least 30 minutes of activity each day.

During this time of school closure, please be mindful of the guidance on keeping children safe online and revisit setting up internet controls.

The only exception at this point is for our families receiving Free School Meals whom we intend to continue serving and supporting from our Stamford Raffles Campus. We are also continuing home visits for students who may be at risk.

We are hoping to instigate a deep clean process from next week at our Neale House and Bennett House campuses in preparation for a reopening when we are able to do so.

We are also continuing to plan with the Local Authority provision for parents/carers who are key workers and for our more vulnerable students. This will be a Borough wide initiative and we will release further information as we receive it.

We will be issuing a Google Form for parents and carers who are Key Workers to complete. This information will then be shared with the LA who are organising schools, staff and catering etc.

I will contact each eligible person with next steps once plans have been formulated. I anticipate that this will take next week to collate.

I would like to express my deepest thanks to those of you who have sent messages of thanks and support.

You have enabled me to lift a staff body who, despite having been under immense emotional and personal stress, are doing their utmost to continue to wisely guide and support those young people in our care.

We do not know at present how long school closures will last for and will be reviewing current plans and updating you regularly.

Finally, if you would forgive my adaption of a quotation from Shakespeare's 'Henry V', I would like to share some words of hope;

Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more;

In peace there's nothing so becomes us as modest stillness and humility:

But when the blast of war blows in our ears, we will step up to support, defend and serve.

I pray that you and your families keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Serrão', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Martin Serrão
Principal