

18th March 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

COVID-19 – Partial School Closure

Following the most recent advice from the Government and Public Health England in relation to self-isolation and household isolation, we have experienced a higher staff absence today, which undoubtedly will continue for the foreseeable future.

In order to preserve the safety of staff and students on site, the school has taken the decision to partially close from Thursday 19th March until Friday 20th March. We will, therefore, be open for the following students only:

	Thurs 19th March	Fri 20th March
School is closed for students in:	Year 10*	Years 10*
School is open for students (who are not in household isolation) in:	Years 11, 12 and 13	Years 11, 12 and 13

***The school also remains open for students in any year group whose parents/carers work in front line NHS or other Emergency Services staff who are not in household isolation.** These students should report to Student Support after Tutor Time for their individual timetable.

Students for whom the school is closed should refer to the IKB website or their Insight account for the work that is to be completed at home.

We will continue to monitor staff and student attendance during the following days and will update you with the plans for the week commencing Monday 23rd March without unnecessary delay.

We can assure you that at the time of writing we still have no reported cases of any student or staff member diagnosed with COVID 19 at IKB Academy or Wellsway School. We are continuing to follow the advice of Public Health England.

Government recently requested that we all make changes to our lifestyles. These are as follows:

1. Everyone to stop non-essential contact with others and to stop all unnecessary travel;
2. Anyone who has, or lives with someone who has a continuous cough or a temperature should stay at home for 14 days;
3. The Government clarified and extended its definition of vulnerable groups to include:
 - a. Citizens over 70-years-old
 - b. Citizens with relevant underlying health conditions
 - c. Pregnant womenAnyone in any of these groups should stay at home for 12 weeks of self-isolation
4. People should start working from home where they possibly can;
5. Avoid pubs, clubs, theatres and other such social venues;
6. Only use the NHS when we really need to, via online services if possible.

This means that if your child has a continuous cough or a temperature, your whole family should stay at home for 14 days from when the condition developed. If your child is otherwise well, but a family member has a continuous cough or a temperature, they should not attend school for 14 days. You will not be penalised for this non-attendance at school, however, we do ask that you inform us directly of your need to isolate via the absence line.

If your child has a relevant underlying health condition, they should begin a period of self-isolation for the next 12 weeks.

We understand that you, or your child, may be feeling anxious about the impact of absence on their learning. Information will be shared with you by teachers via Insight to provide access to some online learning platforms; please do encourage and support your child to use these.

I appreciate that the decision will cause some inconvenience for families and it is not a decision that I have taken lightly. I can assure you that in forming the decision, I have taken into account the well-being of all students and their families and school staff. I thank you for your understanding of this situation, which is wholly outside my control as Principal and for your continued support.

May I end with the statement shared recently from the Chief Executive, Andrea Arlidge, *“Our schools play an important role in their community and we will do what we can to support. At this time, it so important that we look after each other and respect what our government is advising to keep us safe. Showing kindness and consideration to others has never been more important. We will continue to update you as the situation and advice changes”*.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Wilkinson

Principal