



March 2020

Dear Family

As you are aware, the worldwide outbreak of Covid-19 is resulting in changes to how organisations operate and as a result, I have taken the decision to make the following changes to our procedures over the next three weeks.

Meetings and Visitors to School

As from Wednesday, 19 March, the following procedures will apply:

- All external school meetings involving visitors to the school will be re-evaluated and as many as possible will be conducted by telephone
- Heads of Year, the Senior Team and I will conduct as many future parental meetings as possible by telephone, as opposed to face to face

Changes to the Year 9 Option Information Evening on Thursday 19 March

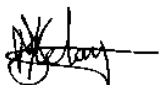
- Parents, guardians and students must not visit the school on the evening
- A member of staff will now attempt to phone home during the allocated appointment time to complete the options process
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- Information regarding the options process has previously been emailed to all parties and further information can also be found at <https://thornsca.org.uk/parents-and-carers/year-9-choices/>
- Reception will be closed to all non-essential external visitors, including parents – please be sensitive and thoughtful in deciding if you need to come into Reception
- Any non-essential contact with the school should be conducted via email info@thorns-s.dudley.sch.uk or by calling reception: 01384 816 225
- We will continue to review guidance about upcoming sporting events and trips
- The PGL trip for Year 11 will not be cancelled by the Academy; however, we are awaiting further information from the venue itself, which we will communicate to you in due course

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These measures are not intended to cause any panic but are simply to minimise the risk of infection and safeguard both the staff and students of Thorns Collegiate Academy. The focus over the next three weeks is the smooth running of the Academy.

We will continue to follow the guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education. The current advice, as of Friday 13 March, is that any student who has a fever (temperature above 37.8C) or persistent cough, should self-isolate for 7 days. The school will authorise all absences that should arise as a result of this. It is important that education of our students is not interrupted and that we are able to operate as normal for as long as possible. However, as you are aware contingency plans are already in place and I will continue to keep you updated of any further guidance received.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Kelay
Principal

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