



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Management of Covid-19 – Tuesday 17th March Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the Covid-19 outbreak continues and following last night's briefing by the Prime Minister, I am again writing to update you with respect to our ongoing plans to manage these issues.

Full School Closure

It was clear from last night's briefing that, at the present time, the intention of the government remains to keep schools open for as long as possible. There was however the first comment that this remained open to regular review and as such, we are conscious, that this may change quickly and are therefore preparing for all eventualities.

In the event of full school closure, we will do our very best to provide work for all our students through Edulink as per their normal timetables. Please check and ensure where possible that your child has access to the app on a mobile device or computer using their usual log in – please report any issues to enquiries@qphs.co.uk and we will endeavour to get these sorted for you. We have surveyed student access to Edulink and will provide paper based resources for any student for whom access is a barrier. The school day will run from 9.00am until 3.30pm with learning taking place in real time as far as possible. We will provide further information to both students and staff should this scenario become a reality, this could be a voyage of discovery for us all!

Partial School Closure

As the implications of last night's measures around social distancing take hold, I remain most concerned about not having enough staff to provide the correct safeguarding procedures in the school over the coming days. I am afraid that it seems inevitable that staff absence levels will increase in the weeks ahead as colleagues are instructed to self-isolate, either because they are ill themselves or because someone in their household has become poorly.

While we have processes in place to cover such scenarios under 'normal circumstances', it is likely that our resources in this respect will become overstretched very quickly. In this respect, we may choose to instruct one (or more) of our year groups to study at home for a period of time. This will then free up a number of our teaching staff to be redeployed to cover other staff absences. If these actions do indeed become necessary, the order of home study will be as follows: Year 12, Year 9, Year 10, Year 8, Year 7 – hoping to keep our Year 11 and Year 13 examination classes in school for as long as possible. These I must stress are not confirmed at this stage and we will always endeavour to keep as many students here in school as normal.

Inspiring Individuals • Empowering Minds • Defining Futures

QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL, QUEENS PARK ROAD, CHESTER CH4 7AE

T: 01244 981500 | E: enquiries@qphs.co.uk | W: www.qphs.co.uk | [@qphschester](https://twitter.com/qphschester)

Headteacher: Lyndsay Watterson MA NPQH





QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

In the event that such actions become necessary, we may need to act very quickly. We may only be able to communicate such decisions to parents on the day itself and will use Edulink, Parentmail and our website, Twitter and Facebook for this purpose.

If at all possible, we will try to provide such information the day before any school closure decisions are applied.

Exams

I have no further information in relation to the examination season ahead at this stage but I know they were discussed in yesterday's meetings between School Leaders Associations and the Secretary of State for Education. I believe more meetings are planned for this week but I will not speculate at this stage. In the interim, we will continue to support our Year 11 and Year 13 students in every way possible to ensure that they are prepped and ready.

Student Illness/Absences

The current guidance states that self-isolation is appropriate if someone has a new persistent cough and/or a high temperature, **or if anybody in the household has these symptoms. From yesterday, government advice is that should one member of the family have any symptoms, then the whole family must self-isolate for 14 days.** If you need further advice in this respect, please contact medical professionals or 'NHS 111 online' as school staff are not able to offer guidance in this area.

If you decide to isolate your child at home, please let us know by contacting the school. If we notice students in school with a persistent cough and/or a high temperature, we have set aside a separate room for them to wait while their parents are contacted and asked to take them home. We will need to contact you urgently so as not to put others at risk. **PLEASE make sure your contact details are up to date and be aware of the need for us to contact you by phone.** It is our intention to authorise absences for these reasons.

School Hygiene

We have been working with our school cleaners to prioritise the regular cleaning of 'touch surfaces'. We are also monitoring the toilets on a daily basis to ensure that they are working properly. We would also encourage parents to provide their son/daughter with tissues that they can use during the school day.

Other Actions

We have taken the decision to cancel assemblies and impending school events such as Year 10 Parents' Evening. School trips and fixtures are all under review but are largely also being cancelled.

We will continue to monitor these circumstances very carefully, particularly with respect to government advice regarding expected school actions. We will continue to

Inspiring Individuals • Empowering Minds • Defining Futures

QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL, QUEENS PARK ROAD, CHESTER CH4 7AE

T: 01244 981500 | E: enquiries@qphs.co.uk | W: www.qphs.co.uk | [@qphschester](https://twitter.com/qphschester)

Headteacher: Lyndsay Watterson MA NPQH





QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

update you on any changing situations as soon as we can. Please make sure you are contactable by phone at all times and check our website and other social media regularly for any updates.

These are challenging times for us all, but we will continue to serve the community in the best way we can. Thank you for your help and patience in trying to manage these unprecedented circumstances.

Yours faithfully

Lyndsay Watterson
Headteacher