CORNELIUS VERMUYDEN SCHOOL

Respect, Resilience, Responsibility

6 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be fully aware, on Monday evening the Prime Minister announced that we will enter a new COVID-19 lockdown period, which came into force at 00:01 on Wednesday 6 January (today). The Government has subsequently issued full Stay at Home guidance.

The immediate impact of this lockdown announcement on Cornelius Vermuyden Schools is as follows:-

1. Secondary Schools

All secondary schools are to move to remote learning only for most children until February half term.

During the period of national lockdown, schools should only allow vulnerable children and the children of critical workers to attend. Children with at least one parent or carer who is listed as a critical worker are eligible for a school place. It is not necessary for both parents to be critical workers. Please note, the critical worker list has been updated to include new workforces whose work is critical following the end of the EU transition period.

If you are a critical worker and require onsite provision, please contact admin@corver.rmplc.co.uk outlining:-

- Your name
- Your critical worker role
- Your child's name
- Your child's year group and bubble

Students will be expected in full school uniform, will work in year group bubbles and will complete a traditional 8.10 am to 2.10 pm school day.

2. Examinations

The Prime Minister announced that it will not be possible for all examinations to go ahead as normal this summer, and that the Government will work with Ofqual and exam boards on alternative arrangements.

I know that you will want to know what this means. We, however, do not have any more detail to provide you with at this stage, but I can promise that we will keep you updated as soon as we know more.

It does seem that January exams can continue to go ahead with clear COVID-19 secure measures, therefore we wish Year 11 Music students all the very best for their examination tomorrow.

In terms of the BTEC IT examinations and NCFE Health and Fitness examinations for Year 11 that were due to take place in February and March respectively, we await further confirmation.

Cornelius Vermuyden School | Dinant Avenue | Canvey Island | Essex | SS8 9QS
Tel: (01268) 685011 | Fax: (01268) 510290 | Email: admin@corver.rmplc.co.uk | www.corneliusvermuyden.com
Headteacher: Mr I Hockey BA(Hons) MSc NPQH

Cornelius Vermuyden School is a Limited Company registered in England and Wales under Company Number 8667123
Registered Office: Cornelius Vermuyden School | Dinant Avenue | Canvey Island | Essex | SS8 9QS Cornelius Vermuyden School is an exempt Charity under the Charities Act 2011

3. Free School Meals

Schools are again expected to provide free school meals for those eligible children, both those on-site and not on site. Please note, this is for those eligible for benefits-based FSM not universal free school meals.

For those eligible students, a £30 Morrison voucher has been posted today. This is to cover the period 4 January to 15 January inclusive.

Please be aware that if your child is entitled to a free school meal and is attending the daily onsite provision, they should bring their own funds or a packed lunch as FSM funds have already been shared with families in advance.

4. Testing in Secondary Schools

Despite the lockdown announcement, the school has continued to develop plans and provision to execute on site testing arrangements. The coronavirus (COVID-19) testing programme will be continued to enable weekly testing for staff and daily close contact testing for those staff and students attending school. This will now be aligned to the new timetable of further students in school post February half term and a focus on developing an approach for regular staff testing and serial testing of close contacts.

5. Remote Education

When students are learning remotely, the DfE expects schools to:-

- Set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in several different subjects;
- Set work that is of equivalent length to the core teaching that pupils would receive in school and, as a minimum, 4 hours a day, with more for pupils working towards formal qualifications this year.

The school will continue to set daily assignments on SMHW to meet this expectation. The school has plans in place, however, to move to a 'blended' approach of assignment-based work on SMHW alongside 'live' teacher support using Microsoft Teams.

It is hoped that the roll out of this approach will start w/c 18 January 2021 and more details (log in details, passwords, and 'how to' guides to support parents and students) will come out in next week under separate cover.

We know that other lockdowns have been tough for everybody concerned and whilst we will set plenty of work for your child to complete (to go over and above our statutory duty), please manage the workload of your own child with a common sense approach. As an aspiration, we would love all tasks to be fully complete, however we know the reality is that this will not be possible in every and all cases.

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6. Welfare Checks

To ensure we fulfil our statutory duties, staff will regularly contact all students to see how they are during the lockdown and to check that they have no issues accessing any of the online materials. This process has already begun, so please can parents and carers be aware that staff will contact them from either the school number or a withheld number over the next two weeks. Any student that the school fails to have direct contact with will lead to a home visit.

To limit my staff having to visit homes, I would appreciate parental support in this process.

7. Communication

Please can all parents/carers use the following communication channels for any support during this period.

Safeguarding – Mrs Bainbridge nbainbridge@corver.rmplc.co.uk

SEND – Mrs Hibben khibben@corver.rmplc.co.uk

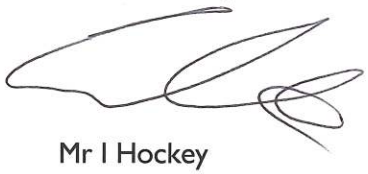
SMHW issues (including log in queries) - Mrs Aduaka uaduaka@corver.rmplc.co.uk

General Year 7 issues – Mr Hilditch jhilditch@corver.rmplc.co.uk
General Year 8 issues – Mr Lill jlill@corver.rmplc.co.uk
General Year 9 issues – Mr Sweeny msweeny@corver.rmplc.co.uk
General Year 10 issues – Mrs Marsden hmarsden@corver.rmplc.co.uk
General Year 11 issues – Mr Chittock chittocks@corver.rmplc.co.uk

General Enquiries – admin@corver.rmplc.co.uk

I once again wish you a happy New Year and hope that you and your families remain safe throughout this trying time for us all.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Hockey
Headteacher

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