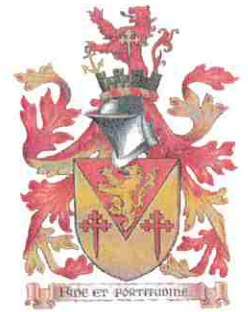




# WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

An Academy Grammar School  
Headteacher: Dr Paul Hayman BSc



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Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Coronavirus Update

Following on from our letters dated 26<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> March, you will have seen in the News that the government has now moved from the containment of Covid-19 to a Delay Phase. Yesterday's announcements included a prohibition on schools making trips abroad and a request for people to self-isolate for seven days if they have a new continuous cough or high temperature.

At school we are asking all staff and pupils to follow this advice.

No one yet knows the extent or impact of this virus in the UK, but we can assume the government are preparing for this to be significant.

We are now taking some further actions in addition to the preparations already made:

### Foreign Trips

All trips abroad will be postponed or cancelled until different advice is received.

The Music Tour at Easter to Disneyland Paris is being cancelled; this also means that the Music Trip meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March will not now take place.

The Year 7 Trip in June to the Opal Coast (France) - this trip may need to be deferred or even cancelled, but no decision has been made yet.

This summer's World Challenge Trip to Iceland - no decision has yet been made until developments are clearer.

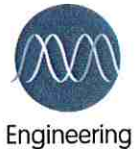
In all cases we are talking to the travel companies and to the school insurers to understand the position and seek refunds/insurance payments where possible. Please can we ask parents to be patient as we clarify these issues.

### GCSE and A Level Examinations

OFQUAL (the organisation overseeing England's Examination Boards) has stated that Public Examinations are scheduled to go ahead as normal.

If there is any change to this arrangement we will immediately advise students and parents.

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# SEAT



### Parents' Consultation Evenings

We have two Parents' Evening scheduled this term.

Year 7 on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Year 13 on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

Both these events are currently expected to take place, but we would ask that no parent attends if they have symptoms of a new continuous cough or high temperature. Please can you let the school know if you are unable to attend.

### School Life

For now we are expecting to carry on as 'normal', while making some sensible adjustments to our work to minimize the risk of transmitting the Covid-19 virus.

To this end we are going to avoid large scale gatherings, and this includes 'whole school assemblies'.

Each event in turn will be considered against the latest advice and guidance we receive.

### School Events

We want to maintain as much as possible of the extracurricular life of the school, but will avoid those involving large scale indoor gatherings.

The Movie Night planned for 27<sup>th</sup> March will be postponed.

### Local Trips and Sporting Fixtures

Wherever possible these will go ahead, but all these events will depend on the availability of staff.

### Continuity of Education

We have already put in place plans for providing a level of education should it become necessary to shut the school.

Within this our priority is for those pupils taking external examinations this summer, but all pupils will have work set to maintain their education for as long as possible.

Please can we ask you to refer to the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> for the latest advice and guidance.

Thank you for your support in these matters.

Yours sincerely



Dr Paul Hayman

**Headteacher**