



19th March, 2020

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) update, 19th March 2020

This update sets out the School's immediate response to the Deputy First Minister's statement on Thursday 19th March.

No school which has not specifically been advised to close (for example for deep cleaning) is being compelled to close to all pupils from Friday 20th March. Edinburgh Steiner School will therefore remain open, as far as possible, and provided it is safe to do so, for pupils whose parents are 'key workers,' and for 'vulnerable pupils.' The definition of 'vulnerable' is clear, and we will be working with the Wellbeing Team to identify those pupils as soon as possible. Overseas visiting pupils are automatically classed as 'vulnerable.'

The definition of 'key worker' (this does not have to be both parents/carers) is not so clear, but John Swinney described these workers as those who perform 'key tasks in the community and make a critical contribution to the economy'. Advice we have received from the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship also suggests that schools do have 'discretion'. Later today, or tomorrow, we will be sending all parents a 'Survey Monkey' questionnaire to gather information about key worker status. This will allow us to compile a list of those pupils who will be able to come to school from next Monday, should parents wish them to come.

There is no requirement for the Kindergarten or any other part of the School to close to all pupils.

For pupils not able to attend school, remote learning will begin as soon as possible. Contingency plans for the setting of work and contact between teachers and pupils are staged:

Stage 1: Bespoke remote learning and pre-set work will be delivered by Class Teachers and exam/subject teachers over the next 10 days. There will be a wide variety of approaches in Stage 1, especially in the Lower School. In the Upper School, the Class 9 VLE will begin delivering a programme as soon as possible after final testing. In Class 10, the Climatology Main Lesson will continue and pupils will be contacted about the tasks they should undertake. In Classes 11 and 12, the majority of pupils still have coursework assessments and assignments to complete and their teachers will remain in contact with them to advise and assist.

Stage 2: Preparations are underway for a more comprehensive and consistent remote learning programme to be delivered in the summer term. All pupils from Class 4 upwards will have school email addresses created for them. This will allow lessons to be delivered in a virtual form safely, whilst being compatible with GDPR. Various platforms are being

considered for the 'whole school' VLE and are now being tested. The Upper School Main Lesson schedule is being redesigned to allow some main lessons to be delivered remotely during the summer term.

Exams and prelims

The DFM's statement confirmed that the final SQA exam diet this year has been cancelled. However, SQA exam courses have not been cancelled and units and course requirements must be completed on time (there is as yet no clarity for GCSEs, other than that the final exam diet has been cancelled). Certification for SQA exam course may be brought forward, but remains August 4th. All SQA candidates will be sent details of how to sign up to MySQA in due course by the SQA Coordinator and the exam board is urging candidates to take advantage of this facility.

It is therefore essential that SQA exam candidates complete all their internal assessments and assignments as this will now form the basis of their course award (grade). There is no change to the prelim schedule or schedule for coursework assessments at Edinburgh Steiner School. John Edward of SCIS made it clear yesterday that school buildings may continue to be used for the purposes of formal assessments, although additional health and hygiene measures, and additional 'distancing' will apply at Edinburgh Steiner School from Monday 23rd. SQA candidates should assume, unless they hear otherwise, that any planned prelim or coursework assessment is to proceed as planned, in the location where these events were planned (although, on arrival, candidates may find that the venue will change).