



## Cookstown High School

Combined Grammar & Secondary School

12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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Dear Parent/ Guardians

As you will be aware, we are in the midst of a rapidly changing landscape regarding the Coronavirus and so far we have been able to keep Cookstown High School open. As a school we are reliant on following the advice and guidance from the Public Health Agency, Department of Education and Education Authority and expect ongoing information and announcements throughout the week.

Behind the scenes at the High School, there has been contingency planning to allow pupil learning to continue uninterrupted. I would like to reassure all parents that Cookstown High School is taking all reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Our cleaning team have increased their normal cleaning routines, computers and equipment is cleaned daily, and it is essential that all pupils adhere to hand and respiratory hygiene.

I do want to allay the fears of parents, where the school acts **as a precaution** it does not constitute a confirmed or positive case of the Coronavirus. As a school, we must do everything possible to protect both pupils and staff and therefore where we feel it necessary to take specific steps, we will do so. So far we **have not** had any confirmed cases of the virus. Where there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 parents **will be** notified.

As a precaution the school is **postponing** the Year 9 and Year 11 consultation day on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in a bid to avoid increased public contact. All pupils are required to attend school that day as it will be a normal school day. Please also be aware that events such as the Year 12 Interview Skills Day and Music Spring Concert will be postponed too.

In the event of a confirmed case, the school will be closed to everyone and a deep clean will take place. Please ensure that you have downloaded the school app or have access to the school website as this will be the main method of communication in the event of a closure.

Pupil learning will continue and teachers will endeavour to teach remotely. Pupils should have information books, exercise books and files home with them. We would urge parents to ensure that their child completes work set for them. Work will be available on the school website and through other on-line resources used in school.

Should you need to contact school in the event of closure please email the school info account which will be monitored. The email address is [info@chs.cookstown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@chs.cookstown.ni.sch.uk).

The situation is changing quickly The clear advice for someone who presents with the common symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath) is NOT to attend the GP or hospital but to telephone the GP for advice. The advice is that those who show 'even minor' signs of respiratory tract infections or a fever should self-isolate for 7 to 14 days.

Thank you for your support

Yours sincerely

  
G J Evans  
Principal