



THE
GARIBALDI
SCHOOL

17th March 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

As you are probably aware the government has significantly changed its advice regarding managing the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). At this moment in time the government isn't instructing schools to close. As a school we are aiming to maintain the high level of service and standards we expect, this is however becoming a challenge as some staff are unable to attend school due to underlying health issues (as defined by the government) or because their families are displaying symptoms or are part of the "high risk" groups. Already we can see that this is having a real impact on our school staffing levels.

As a trust and school we have been placed in a very difficult position. As public servants we naturally want to maintain our service to our learners. To do this we need staff to be at work to provide that service.

It is important to emphasis to parents and carers that **any student or member of staff who has a serious level of risk to health due to underlying conditions MUST NOT attend school**. This list is available on the Government website. This also applies to those who present coronavirus symptoms, who must also self-isolate for 14 days.

For any student that attends The Garibaldi School, that we feel is presenting symptoms, we will make contact with home and ask them to be isolated for a minimum of 14 days.

Due to the staffing position I have decided to take the following actions:

- School will **only be open** for students in **Year 7, 8, 11 and 13** until further notice. Any Year 13 students that should be attending Meden will instead attend Garibaldi.
- Students in the following year groups: **Year 9, Year 10 & Year 12** are **not to attend** school until further notice
- For students who are at home, we will aim to maintain learning by setting work via the school's website, One Drive, Emails and Microsoft 'Team' facilities. Further details on this will follow.

The loss of school meals are a major area of concern to many families. If the school is required to fully close, we will work with our catering suppliers to provide some service to students entitled to free school Meals. More information will follow should this become necessary and possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and consideration in response to this unique situation. Your support is valued and we will maintain a high level of contact with our community as things unfold further.

Best wishes and keep safe.

Mr J Aldred
Head of School