



# ST BEES SCHOOL

WHERE WEST MEETS EAST

## COVID-19

UPDATE: 13 MARCH 2020, 15:00

As you would expect, there has been a protracted period of activity at the school relating to the global pandemic, Covid-19. Substantial contingency planning has been undertaken in the event that the school is required to close, and this planning remains strongly in place for any future developments.

With over 130 countries and territories affected by the virus, we are indeed fortunate at this time that we have no students from abroad. We can therefore concentrate on the domestic issues which we now face.

As with many schools, yesterday was one of the more intense days. News reports and decisions by neighbouring countries to close all schools caused many schools alike to fear a similar lock-down here in the UK with minimal notice. Students and staff were briefed about the implications of an immediate school closure with information of how our on-line programmes would work in the interim closure period.

The Prime Minister's announcement late afternoon informed the country that national school closure would not happen – at least for the foreseeable future. We will continue in our finalising of the on-line teaching and learning platform, to ensure that our students education is maintained. It gives me no pleasure to remind parents that the peak of virulence of Covid-19 in the UK is anticipated in around eight weeks' time, meaning that an eventual school closure may yet still happen, but that would be after Easter.

In the meantime, the school will remain vigilant and continue to take all necessary precautions.

- Hand sanitiser is available at Reception, and outside the Dining Room
- We will minimise external visitors
- All visitors are required to complete our Travel Declaration Form
- The need for additional handwashing is reinforced for all staff and students
- Any external trips or visits will be assessed on an individual basis

We would ask you to consider carefully any travel arrangements you might be planning over the Easter holidays. Please be aware that the guidance about this, which can be found on the FCO website, frequently changes but it could mean that a period of self-isolation might be necessary on your return. Please notify us immediately at the start of the Summer Term if this is the case.

We will continue to monitor the coronavirus situation closely and follow the advice from Public Health England and the Department for Education.

Roger Sinnett  
Headmaster

**St Bees School**

Wood Lane St Bees Cumbria CA27 0DS

T. +44 (0) 1946 828000 E. [welcome@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:welcome@stbeesschool.co.uk)

[stbeesschool.co.uk](http://stbeesschool.co.uk)