



Covid 19 Update 12 – 18 March 2020

Dear Parents, Pupils and Staff,

You will have heard the news from the Prime Minister's latest press briefing regarding Covid19 this evening (Wednesday) that public exams will not take place in May and June. When pressed further, the PM reassured us that the system would be fair and young people's futures would not be impeded. He also announced that all schools will close at the end of Friday which fortunately does not affect our scheduled end of term.

Everyone is naturally disconcerted by the lack of detail and at this stage, firm conclusions cannot and should not be drawn. For now, please bear with us as we give the best advice and update exam cohorts as to whether public examinations are delayed, cancelled or assessed in a different way. As yet, we have no detail from the Joint Council of Qualifications who oversee the exam boards themselves. We anticipate that key organisations to which the school belongs, such as HMC, will lobby government to think more carefully about the ramifications of this decision as it stands.

I know how hard everyone has been working to prepare to be in good shape for the expected academic milestones and for now please keep acquiring knowledge and keeping your brain limber.

To add to the complications this evening, one of my children today developed a cough so my family and I have been instructed by the school doctor to be in isolation for 14 days. A similar situation now applies to one boarding house in the College and I am very glad in that case that their pupils had left before being trapped. All should be reassured that I will be able to operate from my desk in the normal way (it is rather like just a series of bad days at the office...) during my lockdown.

Please stay calm and remember that adversity brings out the best in good people, and Eastbourmians their parents and their teachers are good people (that others would want to be with, if they were not socially distancing).

As we receive more information in the coming days and gain more clarity, hopefully to the benefit of hardworking Eastbourmians, we will let you know.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Lawson
Headmaster