



17 March 2020

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing with updated guidance regarding the ongoing coronavirus outbreak. We are following Government advice which includes, at this time, school being open for all students.

The latest Government guidance from can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

On Monday 16 March new guidelines were issued around coronavirus (COVID-19).

- **Schools in the UK have not yet been asked to close**
- Anyone with a fever or persistent cough should stay at home for seven days if they live alone, or 14 days if they live with others. Anyone who lives with someone displaying coronavirus symptoms should also stay at home for 14 days. People who have to isolate themselves should ask others for help
- Everyone should stop non-essential contact with others. This is particularly important for people over 70, those with underlying health conditions and pregnant women
- People should work from home where they can
- People should avoid places like pubs, clubs and theatres.
- People should stop all unnecessary travel
- By the weekend, those with the most serious health conditions should be largely shielded from social contact for 12 weeks

Previous advice also remains - everyone should regularly wash their hands and avoid contacting the NHS unless it is essential.

This situation clearly may change very quickly and plans have been devised to support students working from home if necessary.

### School operation

We are monitoring the absence of staff and making decisions on a daily basis as to the effective staffing and operation of lessons, in order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our students and staff.

Today we have a significant number of staff who are absent from school. However, we can operate a normal school day for all students. We will review the situation each day and keep you fully informed through our website and social media channels.

(continued...)



## Parents' evenings and events

Until further notice all parents' evenings will be cancelled along with other events in school which involve a large number of external visitors. This includes the Year 9 Parents' Evening planned for Wednesday 25 March.

## Trips abroad

Unfortunately we have had to take the decision, in line with Government guidelines, to cancel all planned trips abroad. Further information on this matter will be shared in due course, via letter, in terms of refunds and future arrangements.

I recognise how challenging this situation is for us all, but I hope that we can work together in support of our families and the wider school community.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew J Knowles  
Headteacher