

### **Email to all other parents/carers - Tuesday 10th March**

Further to my email about keeping your child at home if they have a temperature I am writing to you following additional advice from the Department for Education. If your child has any flu-like symptoms, a bad cough and cold or a temperature, please keep them away from school until they have recovered.

We continue to do all that we can in school to ensure that our students have good hygiene practice. The key to this is effective and frequent handwashing. One of our male students admitted this week that he had not washed his hands for over 36 hours! Please ensure that your child does not stop paying care and attention to handwashing.

I would recommend that if you have hand sanitiser, you give your son/daughter their own sanitiser to use in school as we are finding it difficult to source replacement hand sanitiser at the current time, although we still have sufficient supplies at the moment.

We are also planning for the likely possibility that all schools may be closed at some point around Easter if the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus continues to increase. In this event we are establishing a way for students to access an interactive online learning environment from home using the Microsoft Office tools that they get as part of their school email account. We will let you know more about this nearer the time – it is especially important for Years 10 and 11.

If you didn't already know, you are able to install the entire Microsoft Office Suite for free on up to five of your own personal devices as a consequence of your child being a Balshavian. You can download the Office Suite from your child's school email account. If you want more information about this, please contact the school's IT Support team.

We are doing our best in school to reduce the risk of community transmission of the virus, but we are only as good as the weakest link in the community if good hygiene practice is not undertaken. I would like to thank you for your continued support and hope that you will remain vigilant and pro-active, as we are, in relation to reducing the risk of transmission of the Covid-19 virus.