

Wednesday March 11th 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing to you with some specific advice regarding the Coronavirus outbreak.

As mentioned last week, we will continue to monitor the Public Health advice for Education Settings. We currently have no confirmed or suspected cases in school and we want to ensure that school continues as normal as far as possible.

We have ensured that all toilets and wash facilities are topped up with soap and that we have a continuous flow of hot water. We have asked our cleaning contractors to ensure that all relevant surfaces are cleaned to an expected level daily. This supports the information we have around the best way to contain the spread of germs at this time of the year. The site team are working constantly to ensure that the building maintains its standards for hygiene and ensure that toilets, sinks and boilers are all functioning correctly. We would ask that all visitors to the school use the hand sanitiser at reception.

The Department for Education has set up a coronavirus helpline which currently states that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England. The helpline is available on:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

As the path of the virus outbreak develops we will continue to follow Government advice and if there was to be any forced closure of the whole or part of the school we will inform you as soon as possible through the website and normal email/text methods. If we are required to set work remotely, this will be done through Show My Homework. As parents also have a log on to this, it would be sensible to check that you are in a position to see any work that may be set for your son or daughter in the event of a forced closure and to ensure that they do this.

We are working hard to ensure school keeps the safety of staff and students a priority, whilst ensuring that learning continues. This is particularly important for Year 11 and we will prioritise school support for them.

We would ask all Year 11 students to continue their preparation for exams as normal and presume that all exams will take place as planned. It is important to point out that the exam series already has a contingency week built in until June 26th. As any potential impact of the virus on exams will affect the whole country, we will follow any official guidance and keep students and parents/carers updated.

At present all planned school trips and visits will go ahead and we will continue to monitor official advice on this. We currently have no trip planned to any country where the Foreign Office advises against travel.

Staff will also have to follow the advice of Public Health England about attending work and if it becomes necessary we may have to operate as close to normal as possible but with a higher number of staff absent. This may result in the temporary amalgamation of classes because partial closure as a result of staff absence would be a last resort.

We are clearly in an evolving situation and will follow official advice while maintaining normal school operation as far as possible. There is bound to be a level of concern among students but I would ask that together we

- Encourage frequent hand washing
- Do not sensationalise or overdramatise the issue
- Continue to focus on learning

We will continue to do our best for all our students and staff in these unusual and uncertain circumstances and keep you informed of any decisions.

Yours Sincerely
Andrew Waller

Headteacher