

17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, the Government has now issued new advice around the need for vulnerable groups to self-isolate. We are awaiting clarification from the Dfe around implications for schools. However, we have now taken the decision to:

- Cancel all school trips
- Postpone all Parents Evenings
- Cancel all after school events
- Cancel any events which involve community/parent attendance in school

We ask all families to adhere to the advice and **keep children at home if anyone in the household has a new persistent cough or a high temperature**. If you need to self-isolate your child, we would ask that you telephone school and give an estimated return date based on the advice. It will not be necessary for you to telephone in every day during this period of time. I am sure parents will appreciate that we are currently experiencing high call volumes.

We are awaiting advice from the Dfe, but given the current advice, we are now considering whether we need to operate partial closures due to staffing rates. All schools are currently undergoing Risk Assessments around staffing levels and will notify parents as soon as possible if this becomes necessary. Our aim is to provide as normal a service as possible, but we need to do this safely.

We are sure you appreciate that this is an unprecedented situation and we are constantly updating and reviewing our risk assessments. The well-being of our children and staff are our up-most priority. Should we need to operate a partial closure, parents will be notified at the earliest possible opportunity via their school communication system.

Kind regards



Natasha Greenough

CEO The Mast Academy Trust