

13 March 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

We are sure that you are all aware the HM Government yesterday announced that we are moving from the contain phase to the delay phase of their strategy. As we said in our last letter we will continue to follow advice from the Department for Education (DFE) and Public Health England (PHE) which can be found [here](#).

This introduces important changes and guidance that parents and school have to follow. These will create some disruption to our normal way of life however as was outlined yesterday they are important to ensure the safety of the public as a whole.

If a student has either:

- a high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- a new continuous cough

then they should stay at home for seven days and avoid all but essential contact with others (self-isolation), to slow the spread of the infection. This means that they should not be out of the house during this period. You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Practically for us as a school this will also mean that we will have to change the way that we deal with students who present to our Pastoral Office with either of these symptoms. Where students present with these symptoms we will contact you and they will need to be collected from school quickly and then go into self-isolation for a period of seven days.

If your child is going to be absent from school can we ask you to continue to ring the absence line on 01661 832486 Option 1. When leaving a message please be specific about what is wrong with your son/ daughter and if they are going to be absent for a seven-day period (self-isolation) due to the symptoms outlined above.

HM Government also changed their guidance around overseas school trips which can be found [here](#). The advice currently states that trips should not take place until further notice. We will be speaking to the tour companies that we have trips booked with, which will take a little time, and will contact those of you who have booked trips in due course. This advice does not apply to trips within the UK, however we will need to review risk assessments for these trips and will keep those involved fully informed about these also.

Thank you to all of you who have made sure that your son/ daughter has responded to the email sent to their @students.pchs.org.uk account, we have had a great initial response and would ask that you check again with your child to ensure that they have done this.

In addition to the measures outlined above we have also taken the decision as a school, and with the support of our PE Department, that we are not going to take part in sports fixtures until further notice. This is our personal decision as a school to reduce contact between students from other schools for non-essential activities and does not impact on PE lessons.

However, school remains open and the day to day operation of the school continues including supporting all young people, especially those preparing for the upcoming examination period.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and ask for your understanding and compliance with the new measures announced yesterday as we recognise that they may cause significant disruption to normal family life, but they are essential.

Finally, as this situation evolves we will continue to follow any updated advice and communicate this to you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annemarie Moore', written in a cursive style.

Annemarie Moore
Headteacher