

13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to the updated Coronavirus guidance issued by the government yesterday, all trust schools are continuing to plan for the different scenarios that could materialise over the coming weeks.

This includes planning for school closure. Headteachers and principals will be working with the trust executive team on a daily basis to ensure that their schools remain open whenever possible, subject of course to Public Health England and DfE advice.

The new guidance regarding 7 day self –isolation in the case of individuals displaying even mild symptoms, will however inevitably have an impact on our schools, as it will in all areas of life. If your child has a continuous cough or a high temperature of 37.8 degrees centigrade or higher, they should stay at home. Any child who presents at school with these symptoms will be kept separate from other children and arrangements will be made for them to be collected from school as soon as possible.

When deciding whether or not a school can open our priorities will always be the health, safety and security of the pupils and staff in our care. Decisions regarding closure will therefore be taken on the basis of:

- Adequate supervision
- Safeguarding
- Health and Safety, including cleaning and site security
- Catering provision

Any local decision on whether to close or partially close your school will be communicated by the school directly but will have been taken after due consideration of all of the above factors and following consultation with the trust executive. I must stress however that the trust will of course comply with any new directive from the government concerning school closure. Your school will let you know how decisions relating to school closure will be communicated to you. Your school will also let you know about any arrangements being put in place to keep a school open with reduced levels of staffing.

Many of our secondary school students will be looking forward to planned overseas trips in the coming months, however you may be aware that the government is now advising against all overseas educational visits until further notice. The schools concerned will contact students, parents and carers as appropriate in due course.

Please visit the following sites for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Kind regards



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