

Principal: Lesley Welsh



16 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus Update

As you will be aware, the Coronavirus has now been classed as a pandemic and I would therefore like to reassure parents that the school has been in contact with Hope Learning Trust, NYCC and the Department for Education regarding operating procedures. The school is following all the recommended guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE) on a daily basis. There are notices throughout the school regarding hand washing with a range of hygiene prevention measures in place including the use of tissues and sanitising hands.

The most up-to-date advice suggests that, to support the delay of the spread of the virus anyone who shows certain symptoms should stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

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

We have been advised that **no education setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.** The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce will be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be.

In order to minimise risks to more vulnerable members of our school community all evening events with parents/carers have been cancelled including the SGPS meeting on 18.03.20, Y11 Parents' Evening on 19.03.20 and the Y11 Steps to Success Evening on 01.04.20. Students will be given all relevant information in school.

The school is taking all necessary precautions as stated above to minimise the risks associated with Coronavirus and will keep you informed should the DfE guidance change.

Attendance at school is important and I would hope that parents consider this information carefully to decide whether self-isolation is necessary. It is important however that you do not place the health of your child at risk and should you feel the need to isolate your child please call 01723 582194 and press 1 to speak to our Attendance Team.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support at this time.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Welsh
Principal

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