



East Dale Road
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13 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following my letter yesterday, I am writing to update you on our response to the potential spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). You will be aware that the government moved the country into the delay phase yesterday and this letter outlines what that means for us and ***what we are being asked to do to contribute to the broader national effort to slow the spread of Coronavirus.***

Advice on self-isolation

The government has issued new guidance around the circumstances in which a person should self-isolate. People are asked to self-isolate if they experience the following:

- A new continuous cough and/or
- A high temperature

You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days contact ***NHS 111 online***. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111.

A person should remain at home until 7 days after the onset of symptoms. After 7 days, if you feel better and no longer have a high temperature, you can return to your normal routine and a student or pupil can return to school. A cough may persist for several weeks in some people, despite the coronavirus infection having cleared. A persistent cough alone does not mean you must continue to self-isolate for more than 7 days. If a member of your family or someone you live with is required to self-isolate, a student or pupil does not need to do the same unless they start to display the symptoms above. Detailed information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Should your child be required to self-isolate, please report their absence using the school's normal procedures and state the reason "self-isolation".

Should a staff member notice that a pupil or student has developed a new continuous cough and/or high temperature while at school, we will contact home and ask that appropriate action is taken.

Potential Future School Closures

There is a great deal of discussion nationally about whether the government may order future school closures. As I said yesterday, we are planning for every eventuality and should that happen at a future date we will be well-prepared. I am very grateful to our staff who have worked hard to develop an online learning platform for all year groups and all subjects. This will be ready by early next week and



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we will make it available to pupils and students in the case of large-scale absence or if a full closure is ordered. We will also write to you again with information about how to access the platform.

We do not yet know how our schools will be affected by staff absence over the next few weeks. Should high levels of staff absence occur and mean we have to make changes to how we operate we will communicate that with you. Again, we have developed plans for a range of eventualities.

Examinations

We are very aware that this is a particularly stressful time for students (and their parent and carers) who are taking external exams this year. While it is too early for the government to have provided schools with specific information, we do know that the Qualification and Curriculum Authority and the major exam boards are engaged in contingency planning. We will talk specifically with our pupils and students in those key year groups and communicate directly with you. We will do everything we can to ensure they are well prepared to take their exams and in the meantime the best thing they can do is continue as usual with their school work and revision.

School Trips

The government is now advising against any school trip travelling abroad. We are awaiting further information from the government on how long this is for and whether this will be published as official Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel guidance. Once we have this information and the implications for claiming back payments for any trips that are cancelled, we will share it with those affected. At present there is no guidance on cancelling domestic trips but we are conducting additional risk assessments and will communicate directly with those affected.

Supporting Your Child

A key priority is ensuring as much normality around your child's education and it is important I do everything I can to help our staff in their core role of teaching or supporting your child. With this in mind I will be reviewing our calendar of after-school events, parents' evenings etc. between now and the Easter break. Should we decide to postpone or cancel any events such as extra-curricular activities or parents' evenings, we will let you know at the beginning of next week.

Our Communities

Our staff will do everything they can to reduce any anxiety young people, parents or staff may be feeling at this time. We are mindful of the fact that many people will be worried about vulnerable relatives and friends. Staff will encourage conversations around schools to be based on fact and will



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seek to address misinformation. I hope that everyone associated with our school communities (including our young people) will try to remain calm, measured and are sensitive and kind to others over the coming weeks.

Specific Concerns

I hope that through regular communication, you will feel fully informed about our schools' response to the Coronavirus outbreak. We are aware that a small number of pupils and students have particular conditions which may make them feel more vulnerable. Please do not hesitate to contact school directly if you wish to talk to us about a specific concern.

Hygiene

We will continue to remind all pupils, students and staff of the vital importance of good hand and respiratory hygiene as an essential part of slowing the spread of the virus.

I will continue to update you on our response as the situation develops. I remain enormously grateful to our staff for their hard work and to parents and carers for their support at this challenging time.

Kind regards

Jonny Uttley
CEO



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