



13 March 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

Update on COVID-19

I wanted to update you on the Trust's position in relation to the COVID-19 phase being moved from 'Containment' to the 'Delay' phase by the UK Government and Public Health England (PHE).

Following the amendment to the Governments approach to the handling of the pandemic, new guidance has been issued to address anyone that may become unwell. The guidance is:

Stay at home for 7 days (self-isolate) if you have either:

- ***a high temperature***
- ***a new continuous cough***

This will help to protect others in your community while you are infectious.

Do should not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

NHS & PHE will not be testing people who are self-isolating with mild symptoms.

For schools, this means if your child has symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, they must stay at home and not leave the house for 7 days from when their symptoms started.

Pupils/students who arrive at school but are visibly unwell with these symptoms, will be sent home and asked to stay away for 7 days in accordance with the guidance issued. We would also ask parents who are exhibiting the above symptoms to refrain from coming into school for the same timeframe.

We expect this new advice to mean significant staff absence. We have robust plans in place to ensure classes are covered and we are able to provide the pupils/students with a safe environment and effective teaching and learning opportunities. However, with high staff absence, this will not always be easy and we may have to do things differently, including in extreme circumstances, the partial closure of the school.

All future events are under consideration and decisions about how they go ahead, if at all will be made in accordance with advice at that time. We will review trips and external activities on a case-by-case basis.

I know many parents will be concerned about the impact the current situation may have on exams and the other tests/checks the pupils/students are due to take in May/June. While my immediate focus is the health and safety of pupils/students and their families, clearly the longer-term impact on their education is a concern too.

The Trust are in regular communication with Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE) and will continue to send updates as and when received.

The school will remain open unless we are instructed to close by either Public Health England (PHE) or the Department of Education (DfE). If we were to close, we have drawn up plans to provide work for pupils/students via our on-line applications and through the school website. We will use email/SMS to communicate with you during any closure.

I will write again with a further update once more information is available. All of the action we are taking or planning is designed to keep your children, our staff and the wider community as safe as possible, particularly those who are most vulnerable to the coronavirus.

The full advice can be read 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>

On behalf of our schools, I should like to thank you for your on-going support and understanding during this unprecedented period. We will continue to prioritise the health and welfare of our young people and our staff whilst being mindful of our responsibility to maintaining education provision as best as we can.

Yours sincerely



Miss M Davies
Chief Executive Officer