

13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

The school continues to remain alert on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and are following closely the changing advice from the government as published by Public Health and the DfE.

We continue to go about our normal business as much as we can in these adverse circumstances, the priority being to keep all attending the Academy safe, as well as continuing to educate students.

The school has adapted many of its procedures to ensure that the risk of infection is minimised as far as possible. Hand sanitisers are provided for students to use when entering the refectory or Starbucks. All areas are now regularly sanitised during the school day as well as being cleaned after school. Public health notices are displayed on the TV screens around the school and the message about minimising the spread of the virus and regular washing has been provided to students. We have informed all Parents/Carers that if their child is ill with cold or flu like symptoms they should keep them home for 7 days or until the child is fully recovered. Staff are following similar advice for themselves. Pupils with serious medical conditions who are at high risk of developing an infection have been contacted and special arrangements for them have been arranged. Any student or staff who have travelled back from any of the designated countries/areas mentioned by Public Health must follow the government's advice.

If every student and Parent/Carer adheres to the advice given by the government this is the best way we all can help minimise the dangers this pandemic poses.

As the pandemic grows, the school has to increase its safety measures to minimise the risk of infection spreading. A number of new actions are now being put in place following the latest announcement by the Government on 12 March:

1. Any Parent/Carer and student travelling abroad during the Easter holidays are asked to let us know so we can monitor any potential impact of the travel on the risk of infection.
2. All school trips abroad have been cancelled for the rest of this academic year. All other school trips have been cancelled unless essential for examination work or where the risk of infection is minimal.
3. Large-scale school events involving parents or large numbers of students will be suspended and maybe cancelled unless the pandemic significantly reduces.
4. Although the government has decided to keep schools open, preparations are underway in the event that this situation changes in the future. The exact arrangements we cannot give yet as we do not know if, when or how such a possible closure may work.

Parents/Carers often want more advice about what to do and how to handle the issues the pandemic creates. The school's advice is for Parents/Carers to visit the Public Health website as shown below and to ring 111 if there are medical concerns. As a school, we cannot provide medical advice nor can we speak on behalf of the government.

We will continue to keep you informed about the school's response to this worldwide crisis as and when we know more.

Please ensure that we have your up to date contact details in case of the need to contact you in an emergency.

Please also keep following our website in case announcements are made.

Public health web site:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

Kind regards,

Mr Derrick Brown
Head Teacher