



Thursday 12th March, 2020.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The government have, this evening, issued further advice and guidance regarding the outbreak of coronavirus. Anyone who has a persistent cough, that is new, or a temperature should self-isolate for 7 days. We'd therefore request that should your child develop these symptoms you keep them absent from school for this period.

Contrary to false information circulated on social media the school currently do not have a case of the virus linked to either staff or pupils. We will inform parents of any concerns should they develop.

The government have stated that there will now not be a need to test everyone who develops the symptoms of a respiratory infection and that a large number of those developing symptoms might be able to manage these without seeking medical attention. Though the advice remains that if you're concerned about your condition you should contact 111, especially if your symptoms progress beyond what would be considered mild.

We are advised that schools are to remain open at this time and to operate as normal. Whilst this is the current advice; I wanted to reassure parents that we have a clear plan of action to provide pupils with access to educational resources and to support the preparation of Year 11 ahead of the examination period should a future decision be taken to close schools.

At the moment the advice from Ofqual remains for pupils to prepare for public examinations in the summer as normal. They have indicated that they will issue pupils and schools with updated advice where necessary and we will, of course, ensure that we communicate this to you as we receive it.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin.
Principal.

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Government Advice and Guidance

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan/coronavirus-action-plan-a-guide-to-what-you-can-expect-across-the-uk>

NHS advice and guidance

- Coronavirus online advice: <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>
- NHS phone helpline: 111
- Specific guidance for educational settings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Prevent the spread of infection

- washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin.
- people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting
- pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
 - before leaving home
 - on arrival at school
 - after using the toilet
 - after breaks and sporting activities
 - before food preparation
 - before eating any food, including snacks
 - before leaving school
- use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Make sure that children and young people know to tell a member of staff if they feel unwell