



Leventhorpe

a business and enterprise academy

Coronavirus Update for Parents and Carers: 13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you today because the advice regarding Coronavirus and foreign travel has changed since the government have announced that they are moving to the delay phase of their strategy.

Symptoms in children

Public Health England have changed their advice to all members of the public that they should self-isolate for a period of at least seven days should they show the symptoms of a fever/high temperature and/or a new persistent cough. We have also been told that children can contract Covid-19 but the symptoms are frequently mild. With this in mind we urge all parents/carers to keep their children away from school for a week if they are concerned that their child might be displaying these symptoms.

Partial closure of school

As stated in our previous letter, our aim will be to keep Leventhorpe open through this period, or until government policy changes. With this in mind we do need to inform you that there are minimum safe staffing levels for our operation and in the event of heavy staff absence through self-isolation it may be necessary to partially close the school to some students. We would only make this decision when it is essential in terms of safe staffing levels and our decision about when to send children home would be made on the basis of their age, relevant to safe self-management at home and then the closeness in their school career of public examinations.

Decisions would be made at short notice based on staffing and we would hope to inform parents on the day before if we had to partially close. We would also move to immediate reinstatement of year groups should the staffing situation improve.

Full closure of the school

Should the government decide that schools across the country should close then we will of course follow this advice. We believe that we would be able to continue a form of online education for pupils, and teaching staff would be expected to work from home to set work for pupils and provide some feedback to pupils. If this occurs we will provide more detailed information to parents and students.

Trips abroad

The government have advised that all school trips abroad should stop and so we are working with our tour companies on this basis. Our trips are insured by a government Department for Education Scheme and so we are hopeful that the government will be supporting schools with the process of cancelling trips. We have not yet been given

information about refunds, but we hope that information is forthcoming soon. We would ask parents to be patient on this matter and we will inform you as soon as there is clarity. We will communicate directly with parents/carers whose children are on trips via School Comms.

After school activities

While the school will remain open during the normal day, we will take some steps to minimise the risk of community transmission in additional activities. We have therefore decided to cancel or postpone some activities. We will send specific messages about cancelled or postponed activities to parents/carers who are involved.

Communications strategy

We would ask parents to be understanding that we do not have an extensive phone call handling system and that it may be difficult for us to answer all of your questions as quickly as you would like. We would ask parents to only use phone communication with the school for emergencies, matters related to pastoral care and behaviour and to leave details of absence. All other questions should be directed to education@leventhorpe.net in writing. If there is a large volume of questions we propose to create a FAQ document that we will send to parents via school comms.

Further information

We would like to remind you to look regularly at the government's advice on these matters, as this will include the most up to date guidance.

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

Thank you for your understanding on this matter and your support in this time of national difficulty.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm White
Headteacher