



Leventhorpe

a business and enterprise academy

Coronavirus Update for Parents and Carers: 17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you today because the advice regarding Coronavirus has changed significantly in the light of the Prime Minister's press briefing on Monday 16th March.

Symptoms in children and within the family

Public Health England have changed their advice to all members of the public that they should self-isolate for a period of at least 14 days should they show the symptoms of a fever/high temperature and/or a new persistent cough **or** if these symptoms are shown by people who live in their home. With this in mind, we urge all parents/carers to keep their children away from school for 14 days if they are concerned that their child might be displaying these symptoms **or** if anyone in their household has. We recognise that this may represent a much higher proportion of children than earlier guidance.

We know that it has been very hard for parents and carers to make these judgements and we would urge you to be cautious and not send your child into school if you feel there is any risk they may have been exposed to coronavirus. Self-isolation or family isolation is coded as authorised absence during this period where the country is managing the outbreak. We will also code any absence caused by social distancing because of pre-existing conditions in the same way. There will be no negative consequence for you or your child if you keep them off school, because you suspect that there might be a risk but are not sure.

Unfortunately, we are not in a position to set work for children who are self-isolating at home at the moment because teachers are still deployed teaching classes for the children on site. If we move to a national position where schools close, we will move to an online education offer for all, but at present the school does not have the capacity to do both things.

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. However, 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 was 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.

Parents and carers need to be aware that the new guidance on self-isolation will affect Leventhorpe staff too and will make necessary partial closure more likely.

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 and with the UK

With the new guidance against public gatherings, it is unlikely that any trips or visits will be taken in the immediate future. Our finance team is working tirelessly to secure refunds for parents on trips and we will return money to parents as soon as we can. We ask you in the immediate future to avoid contacting the finance team directly with individual questions, so that they can focus on getting refunds for parents and carers.

Other school activities

While the school will remain open during the normal day, we have attempted to cancel all after school and additional activities that might run the risk of encouraging Coronavirus transmission or place strain on our staffing of lessons and daily care for children. All sport fixtures have now been cancelled until further notice.

This list of other planned activities has been cancelled, before Easter. An updated list of after Easter activities when we have a clearer picture at that time.

- 17th March Warner Brother Trip 1 – cancelled (will not take place this year)
- 19th March Year 8 Parents Information Evening on Options Process
- 23rd March Warner Borthor Trip 2 - cancelled (will not take place this year)
- 25th March Gym and Dance Display (we hope this can be included in Levfest)
- 26th March Year 8 Parents Consultation Evening (postponed to summer term)
- 26th March County Maths Finals
- 27th March DofE Silver Expedition (postponed to summer term)
- 27th March Year 8 Tutor Day
- 30th March Year 12 Work Experience Week
- 31st March Leventhorpe Book Award
- 1st April Holocaust Survivor Talk

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 send up dates in messages such as this one 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