



Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mrs Alison Sherman

11 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to you with specific advice about the Coronavirus outbreak and would appreciate your careful attention to the contents of this letter and your ongoing support.

**Information about the virus (taken from Government Guidance)**

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China in January 2020. The incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2 to 14 days. This means that if a person remains well 14 days after contact with someone with confirmed coronavirus, they have not been infected.

The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after exposure to someone who has COVID-19 infection:

- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fever

Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. ***There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups - very few cases have been reported in children.***

Public Health England and the Department for Education go on to say that if anyone has been in contact with a suspected case in a childcare or education setting, no restrictions or special control measures are required, there is no need to close the setting or send other students or staff home.

Parents/carers should note that we are still in the winter season where viruses are common, with the symptoms of Coronavirus being very similar to those of a heavy cold/flu.

**Within the academy, we will promote good hygiene practice.**

- Frequent hand washing of the hands.
- If sneezing, blow into a handkerchief or disposable tissue then wash your hands again.
- Increase cleaning of all furniture surfaces, door handles, equipment that is handled.

Further resources regarding hygiene can be found by clicking this [link](#).

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Please note that the Department for Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Opening hours: 8 am to 6 pm (Monday to Friday)

### **Easter Holiday**

At this point, the planned trips including the Spain trip will still go ahead, although we will obviously monitor the situation closely and the position may change.

Some parents may be planning trips abroad with their families. The advice to those travelling abroad which is being regularly updated can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

and for a specific country:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

### **Finally**

Please don't be concerned. Most coughs and colds are simply that; coughs and colds. If you are worried then you should call 111, but **please do not keep your child off school** if they have not developed the symptoms unless you have been specifically and medically advised to self-isolate. If you have any further questions, please contact us, but medical advice should be sought from the NHS.

Yours faithfully



A M Sherman  
Principal