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16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Covid-19 Update

The safety and wellbeing of your child and academy staff will always be our main priority and we are continuing to follow the latest guidance and advice from the government through Public Health England and the Department for Education.

Since Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, people who show symptoms of the infection, however mild, are told to self-isolate for a period of 7 days.

Symptoms you need to look for are:

- ★ A new, continuous cough and/or
- ★ A high temperature.

The current advice for schools is to remain open. However, it is possible that this may change over the coming days and weeks. We recognise that this will cause some disruption to families, so we will give you as much notice as possible.

The academy is currently preparing learning materials for pupils, in the event that we do have to close to allow learning to continue.

#### **Pupil Absences**

If your child is unwell with any of the symptoms listed above, please ensure that you do follow the Government guidance and do not send them to school. Please inform the school office by text, with the reason for absence, unless you are advised that the school is fully closed.

#### **Trips**

We have made the decision that all trips in the near future are to be cancelled – we will keep pupils and parents updated.

#### **Visitors to the Academy**

We have cancelled all visitors to the academy that are not directly related to the safeguarding of children. Please do not be offended if it is asked that you do not attend the academy, or if staff are unavailable for meetings.

#### **Electives – Y7&8 only**

We have decided to change Electives for the next two weeks, these will be different activities and will be ran by main school staff. Details to follow on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. There will be no external visitors into the academy and there will be no off site visits.

#### **Handwashing advice**

The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport.

There is a short NHS film for guidance: <https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

#### **Covid-19 National Guidance**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Yours sincerely,

Kim Wilson | **Executive Principal**

