



March 16th 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are currently dealing very carefully with the issues relating to Coronavirus. We have been carrying on as normal with everyday school life with the added advice to students and staff re hygiene and taking extra time to wash hands regularly.

We are not aware at present of any particular concerns with staff or students who may have visited the affected areas abroad or being in contact with anyone diagnosed with the virus and we are not anticipating any issues at this time. If you have any concerns over symptoms, please communicate with us and self-refer through 111. If you are in any doubt, please speak to us.

We continue to follow advice from Public Health England and students have been spoken to in the school about the hygiene messages that are being shared in the news on this (as below). As always attendance is a key factor in children doing well at school and we want every child in school every day wherever possible. I would ask you to remain calm and to follow the advice given by Public Health England. We have been told by the Public Health Department at Walsall Council that:

“Public Health England and Department of Health have advised that schools do not need to close in relation to COVID 19 (even if there are associated possible cases currently undergoing testing). If a confirmed case is identified with links to a school, specific advice would be given on a case by case basis and parents and students would be updated appropriately”

We continue to monitor the changing stance of the government and it may be that there is a directive to close schools at some point. Staff are currently liaising within departments on the plan of action if this occurs: mainly in terms of using online resources to set and receive work. Year 11 students should also be revising. Students need to be proactive in making sure that they can access work, if we have to close. If your child does not have access to the internet, please let their Head of Year know asap so that we can make alternative arrangements for offsite learning.

As you can appreciate, this is an extremely difficult time and I can understand that people are concerned about the health and well-being of their children. This is our number one priority and we are managing the situation with this consideration at the heart of everything we do as always.

If we do have to close, I will communicate this clearly via text message, Twitter, the school Facebook account and the school's website. Please check these regularly.

Thank you for your support and understanding at a time of uncertainty.

Yours sincerely,



Keith Whittlestone
Principal

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?								
If you need to cough or sneeze			You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser					
								
Catch it with a tissue	Bin it	Kill it by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser	After breaks & sport activities	Before cooking & eating	SCHOOL ETC. On arrival at any childcare or educational setting	After using the toilet	Before leaving home	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels						