

Thursday 12 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Cases of coronavirus are predicted to increase. This means the likelihood of a pupil, parent or member of staff testing positive or being in contact with a confirmed case and being advised to self-isolate is increasing. The current situation is that if there is a confirmed case at school then Public Health England will advise on the appropriate and proportionate steps to take. Where a pupil or staff member is self-isolating due to contact with a confirmed case the current national advice is that schools should remain open.

We are not aware of any cases that affect our school community currently. However, students **must not** come into school if they have any of the following symptoms:

1. Fever
2. Dry cough
3. Shortness of breath

If any of these symptoms are present or you are worried in any way that you or your child may have contracted coronavirus you should contact NHS 111 immediately to seek advice. Please then notify the school about the action you have been asked to take.

I would like to reassure you that the health and wellbeing of students and staff is our top priority. Having carefully considered the current situation in Cumbria, we are going to take the following measures with immediate effect:

1. There will be **no parent meetings** in school unless you are notified otherwise on an individual basis. This means the Year 12 Parents' Evening, due to take place later today, is postponed until further notice. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause
2. Trips and visits will be assessed on an individual basis and we will take travel advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) about any trips abroad. It is important to stress that a decision may need to be made at short notice regarding trips
3. All sports fixtures will be cancelled until further notice
4. KS3 and 4 vaccination catch-ups: we are seeking advice from the NHS on whether these will take place
5. We will look to minimise visitors in school. Anyone who does come into reception will be asked to sanitise their hands and be given a copy of the Public Health England leaflet 'Advice on coronavirus for places of education' (attached)
6. We would ask you to consider carefully any travel arrangements you might be planning over the Easter holidays. Please be aware that the guidance about this, which can be found on the FCO website, frequently changes but it could mean that a period of self-isolation might be necessary on your return. Please notify us immediately at the start of the summer term if this is the case

In addition to these actions, we have put in place a number of measures with the students. This includes briefing them in Form time and assemblies, putting notices and signage up in every

classroom and around the school to encourage good hygiene and regularly checking the soap dispensers to ensure that there is always an adequate supply.

We will continue to monitor the coronavirus situation closely and follow the advice from Public Health England and the Department for Education. The Department for Education's advice page for schools can be found using the link below:

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

The most important advice is to limit the spread of the virus. Health-care professionals stress the importance of hygiene and hand washing. They recommend:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Catch it, Bin it, Kill it: Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin
- People who feel unwell should stay at home

Students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:

- After using public transport
- Before leaving home and on arrival at school
- After using the toilet
- After breaks and sporting activities
- Before eating any food, including snacks

We will continue to highlight this important advice to students. We will contact you immediately with any new arrangements that may have to be put in place if circumstances do change in any way.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Gilby  
Headteacher