



Lealands High School

A Specialist Sports College

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Lealands High School

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Wednesday 18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Coronavirus Update

I am writing to update you on the current advice and guidance for educational settings on coronavirus. As a school we will follow the national guidance and any advice that we receive specifically from Public Health England or the Department for Education. As you will be aware, the situation is changing regularly and it is a fast moving picture.

Currently, national guidance states that schools will remain open and continue to operate as usual, though all schools have now received advice that trips abroad should not take place. We have planned trips to France and Spain later in the year and will review these nearer the time in line with the advice we receive. Sporting fixtures to other schools have been suspended as part of local arrangements and other planned trips may not go ahead, but we will keep you informed. A number of support agencies that work with the school are suspending their activities and we are aware of the impact this may have. We are working to minimise the negative impact of this on our most vulnerable students and families.

The Government has moved from the containment to the delay phase and has given guidance that anyone with breathing difficulties, a new, continuous persistent cough and/or a temperature of 37.8°C or higher should self-isolate for 7 days. Those living in a household with someone displaying the symptoms are advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

Information regarding this can be found on: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>. If you are at all concerned about any symptoms then the advice is that you visit the following site <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19> and follow the instructions given to you.

In the event of a school closure we would continue to support and set work for students via Google Classroom and staff will be available, where possible, to students via email. It is, therefore, important that students have access to this at home. Work packs will be made available for any students who do not have internet access at home and I would ask you to contact Mrs Rust at the school if this is the case for your child so that we can support with this.

In cases where individual students are self-isolating, staff will try to assist with work where possible, but please be mindful of the additional work this places on already stretched staff at this time. If a parent/carer believes their child to have one of the symptoms or someone in the household does, please contact the school absence line as usual to explain the self-isolation. Although some parents are concerned about their child getting the virus, the Government's current plan is just to slow the spread so that the hospitals and healthcare professionals can cope with increased demands. We are informed that children and young people who do not have underlying health conditions are likely to have mild or minimal

symptoms should they contract the virus. However, I do not underestimate the concern that many of our families have at this difficult time.

We are aware that some schools have instigated partial closures due to staff absence. This is currently not necessary at Lealands, but we are aware the situation may change. We do have some staff self-isolating and we are working to minimise the impact of this on continued education for our students. Should the situation change we will notify parents/carers via our normal communication channels.

I do not, at this stage, envisage this affecting the timing of the GCSE exams and students in Year 11 should continue to prepare for these as usual. Our intervention sessions and additional out of hours support is currently planned to go ahead as normal, but again, we will keep you informed should this change. Please do keep in touch and do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Mr John Burridge
Headteacher