



13 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

You will, no doubt, have seen or heard the latest government advice that was issued yesterday afternoon. The government has taken the decision to move from the containment phase of their strategic plan, to the delay phase. The risk level has been raised to high.

The basic advice to all UK residents, whether they have been abroad or not, is copied for you below, and I would respectfully request all members of the Academy community to follow this guidance assiduously.

Stay at home for 7 days if you have either:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough

This will help to protect others in your community while you are infectious.

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

We will not be testing people who are self-isolating with mild symptoms.

The government has produced a booklet entitled "Stay at home guidance". The link is below:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stayat-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19infection>


The main points are as follows:

This guidance is for people **with** confirmed or possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who are required to stay at home. The main messages are:

- if you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. (See Ending Isolation section below for more information) - this action will help protect others in your community whilst you are infectious
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home
- ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home
- stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible
- sleep alone, if that is possible
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water
- stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible

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- you do not need to call NHS111 to go into self-isolation.
- If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999

At this point the government is not talking about closing schools unless there are specific reasons to do so. We will continue to monitor their advice and will let you know when that guidance changes. In the event that the school is asked to close down, we will ensure that appropriate work is set for our students.

With regard to **exam preparation, Ofqual have released the below statement:**

Ofqual continues to work closely with exam boards, other regulators and the Department for Education to plan for a range of scenarios, as the public would expect. Our overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum. Read full statement here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-statement-on-coronavirus>

In the meantime, we are conscious that we have a number of trips and events coming up at school over the next three weeks and after the Easter break. Although any trips abroad before Easter are cancelled, the Department for Education, however, is not currently advising against domestic trips (residential and non-residential) for children under 18 organised by education settings. Again, I am aware that this advice and guidance is subject to change and we will continue to review our programme based on this and other relevant information.

A link that gives an overview of the current situation is below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

Thank you for your patience at this time; please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

**Mr M Avoth**  
**Principal**

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