



16 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

During this difficult time with the changing news of the Coronavirus pandemic, please find below our response to Public Health England (PHE) and DfE advice. We are currently working on the best way to manage communication in such an event, however, we will continue to post information on our designated Coronavirus page on our webpage

<https://www.thebourneacademy.com/page/?title=Coronavirus+COVID%2D19&pid=162> as well as regular parentmail and text updates.

In the highly undesirable event that we have to consider a short-term, partial or full closure, governors have been very clear that they understand the disruptive effect that last minute decisions can have on busy families. Such a decision would only be made as a last resort. In the meantime, please continue to support a positive work ethic at home and school. However, if we receive a directive to close or partially close, teachers have been working hard to ensure work, homework and revision materials are available through Show My Homework, Google Classroom and various hard copy workbooks. Assignments may also be set on Hegarty Maths and Tassomai and other educational web platforms that students are familiar with. These platforms can all be accessed via mobile phones or computer.

All work will be provided at the beginning of any week and students will be expected to check and complete assigned work over the course of that week. Communication between student and teacher can be made through Show My Homework and Google Classroom.

As per government advice, we are in communication with our travel consultants to discuss cancellation of all foreign school trips. Parents and students impacted by this decision will be informed separately. We are looking at our risk assessments of UK trips on a case by case basis as schools have not been advised against domestic visits at this time.

With regard to examination classes, 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. Their overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum. Read the full statement here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-statement-on-coronavirus>

We are acutely aware that some families rely on Free School Meals during term time. Therefore, we are in discussion with relevant parties as well as awaiting government advice, as to how best to support these families. We will contact affected families on an individual basis.

In the event of levels of staffing being affected, some changes may need to be made to the way lessons are delivered. We will continue to do all we can to keep the Academy open, in accordance with government guidance.

Whilst we are operating normally, 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.

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

The Bourne Academy, Hadow Road, Bournemouth, BH10 5HS | Tel. 01202 528554 | admin@thebourneacademy.com

www.thebourneacademy.com |  @BourneAcademy

If you or your child becomes ill or has any of the symptoms below, however mild then stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started.:

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 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

These actions will help protect others in our community whilst you are infectious. I ask that all parents and carers follow this guidance for their children with immediate effect. Should you need to take your child out of school having followed government guidance it will be recorded as an authorised absence.

We will continue to monitor the situation very carefully and we will heed government and PHE advice.

I am keen to ensure that we are supporting staff, parents, carers and pupils wherever possible. I want to thank you for your support and understanding. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Avoth
Principal

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The Bourne Academy, Hadow Road, Bournemouth, BH10 5HS Tel. 01202 528554
www.thebourneacademy.com admin@thebourneacademy.com

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