



## DALE HOUSE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### **COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus): Advice for Parents, Carers and Pupils**

Following the most recent announcement from the Government on Thursday 12 March, we wanted to provide all parents and carers with the latest information relating to the actions that we are taking at our school.

#### **The current directive is that schools should not close in relation to Covid-19**

Therefore, our main focus remains on that of the continued education of our pupils within a safe and secure environment; and ensuring that we take all reasonable steps based on the specific advice and guidance provided to us in daily briefings from the Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE).

#### **Actions we are taking as of Friday 13 March 2020**

In addition to measures already communicated relating to the importance of hygiene, the school has taken the decision to implement the following measures from Friday 13 March to Monday 20 April 2020:

- Educational trips and visits scheduled to take place in April, will be cancelled (or convened at an alternative time where possible and/or appropriate).
- Sports fixtures scheduled to take place will be cancelled (or postponed to a later date where possible).
- Parents evenings, supporting success and any other equivalent events will be cancelled (or convened at an alternative time where appropriate).

The above measures will remain under review with any further decision communicated to parents/carers for the period after 20 April 2020 as soon as possible based on the guidance available.

#### **Planning for the potential of a directed school closure**

As stated previously, the school have plans in place to respond to the likelihood of a forced closure. These plans specifically include the following factors:

- Safe closure of the school for pupils and staff.
- Securing clear channels of communication for parents/carers to and from the school eg. phone, text, Facebook, website.
- The provision of work for pupils during school term time.

Should there be a need to close the school, we will ensure that any measures to be taken are communicated to parents/carers using the usual channels available.

#### **Latest National Guidance - What to do if you have symptoms?**

The latest national guidance and updates on Covid-19 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

As of Thursday 12 March, there has been a change in guidance provided by the Government as follows:

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 if 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 are infected.

There will be no tests for people that are self-isolating with mild symptoms.

### **The importance of hygiene in preventing the spread of infection**

In order to reduce the risk of the virus spreading we ask that all pupils, staff and visitors follow the Public Health England guidance. The expert advice is that personal hygiene is the most important way we can collectively tackle COVID-19, especially washing hands more; and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' strategy for those with coughs and sneezes. The following advice is of high importance in this respect:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school;
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin.

The following link refers to quick and handy updates from the NHS:

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

In conclusion, this is clearly an unprecedented situation and on behalf of the school I would like to ask all parents / carers for your ongoing co-operation and support to ensure the smooth running of the school.

Please rest assured that we will continue to respond to what is an ever-changing situation, ensuring that we keep you appropriately informed as soon as is practically possible to do so.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs S M G Fletcher**

Headmistress