



Tuesday, 3rd March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus Update

There is currently a lot of information in the news about schools and the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) infection. We have also had parents contacting us about the school's response to the virus. Tutors have been sharing the attached advice with students, which is also displayed in school. This information reinforces the message about preventing the spread of infections through good personal hygiene. We will continue to follow the advice given by the Department for Education, Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England. We are trying not to alarm students but to reassure them, as always we continue to stress the importance of washing hands thoroughly and sneezing/coughing in to a tissue to avoid spreading germs and viruses.

The key message from the government is that should individuals present with flu-like symptoms they should ring NHS Direct (111) to seek advice. The list of worldwide locations for the virus is changing frequently and it would be a good idea to check the government website if you are concerned.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk>

However, currently the advice is if you have returned from the following specific areas since 19th February, you should call NHS 111 and stay indoors and avoid contact with other people even if you do not have symptoms:

- Iran
- Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy
- Special care Zones in South Korea
- Hubei province (China)

Cont/

Please reply to:

- **Shenstone Lodge** Birmingham Road, Shenstone, Nr Lichfield, Staffs. WS14 0LB. **Tel:** 01543 480369 **Fax:** 0800 471 5097
- **The Brades Lodge** Lower City Road, Tividale, West Midlands B69 2HF. **Tel:** 0121 552 3125 **Fax:** 0800 471 5097



If you have returned from the following areas since 19th February and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS 111. You do not need to follow this advice if you have no symptoms.

- Northern Italy (anywhere north of Pisa, Florence and Rimini)
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar
- Malaysia
- Japan
- Taiwan
- Thailand

Additionally, it would be prudent for students to ensure that they have their own pack of tissues to bring to school and ensure that they practise good hand-wash hygiene.

You may wish to purchase a bottle of hand sanitiser that your son/daughter can keep in their bag for their own personal use. Additional advice about the Covid-19 infection can be found using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

We will provide further updates as and when they are made available. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Yours faithfully



Neil Toplass
Executive Head Teacher

Att: