

10 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus advice

Each day we have new areas of advice from the government. The information this week regarding exams and potential impact on them is below:

Exam preparation and Ofqual advice

We recognise that students, parents, schools and colleges will be concerned about the possible impact of coronavirus on the 2020 summer exam series. Ofqual's advice at this time is to continue to prepare for exams and other assessments as normal. 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. It is still many weeks until exams start and we will issue updated advice if necessary, giving schools and colleges as much notice as possible. The latest updates from Ofqual can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-statement-on-coronavirus>

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is now available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone:	0800 046 8687
Email:	DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk
Opening hours:	8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)
Updates on COVID-19	https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

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Assemblies in school today covered hand washing and this remains the most important action we can undertake to help keep ourselves and others well. In school we have many sinks available to students and also soap dispensers which are checked regularly. Please encourage your child to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently. Here is the link to the video regarding handwashing which is being shown in assemblies:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lisgnbMfKvI>

If you have a child who is unable to attend school because they are ill please make sure you tell us that when you contact the school informing us of their absence. If you have a child who is self-isolating please tell school staff that is the reason. It is important we know which is the case because the school must use a different attendance code for isolation.

The advice regarding self-isolation may change in the next 10-14 days. The government may change its self-isolation guidance to people with colds and fevers regardless of proximity to a potential victim of coronavirus. However, that is not the current advice.

For the latest advice, which is what we will follow as a school, refer to the government websites linked here:

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

Yours faithfully

Christopher Anders
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