



16 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS

I write to provide a further update regarding how the school is responding to the Coronavirus and necessary changes moving forwards.

We continue to follow the guidance from the government and Public Health England in supporting the prevention and containment of the Covid-19/Coronavirus. The current advice given to schools is available on the link below and recommends the adoption of good respiratory and hand hygiene to prevent the risk of infection and a 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to coughs and sneezes:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

We have reinforced with our students the need to:

- wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and to use alcohol sanitiser gel, regularly throughout the day;
- catch your cough or sneeze in a tissue (or sleeve/clothing in the absence of tissue), throw away the used tissue, bin it, and wash your hands;
- avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands; and
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

We have ensured that all soap dispensers are filled with anti-bacterial soap and alcohol sanitiser gel is available in different locations around the school. The site team check that these are well stocked each day. High contact areas such as door handles, push plates and handrails are being disinfected during the day on a regular basis.

Whilst it isn't a decision that we've taken lightly, we have decided to cancel all parents' events up until Easter, in the first instance. With the Year 10 Parents' Information Event on Tuesday being cancelled, we will create a report for your child and should staff need to provide further detail, they will contact you either by phone or letter, over the next week. Should you wish to receive a follow up call from a member of teaching staff or the Student Support Officer, please call the school on 01423 548800, or on admin@harrogatehighschool.co.uk

We have a range of school trips organised this academic year, including a trip abroad and to other educational establishments etc. We have taken the decision to cancel all school trips until after Easter at which time we will review the situation. The trips cancelled at this time are:-

Y11 Harrogate College Taster Day – 18 March
The Big Deal Launch Event, York Uni – 18 March
Royal Hall Concert – 20 March
Granby Court Performance – 26 March
Y11 Field Trip to Leeds – 26 March

The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulator advise that we continue as normal to prepare students for the examination season. We will continue to work closely with the DfE and Ofqual to review what the arrangements for examination series will look like moving forwards. Examination dates may be changed if schools are required to close and this may impact on planned holidays. Any changes to examination dates or requirements will be sent to you as soon as available. Currently there are no changes.



Whilst we haven't had confirmation that any students/staff have contracted Coronavirus, we are following the guidance from Public Health England and have insisted that any student/staff member self-isolate and do not come to school for 7 days, should they have a fever or new, continuous cough. Whilst this has led to an increase in supply cover in school, we are using our employed Cover Manager and Supervisor in the first instance and are regularly monitoring external supply lessons across the school to ensure that learning continues without disruption. We are grateful for your patience at this time.

The school is currently establishing a contingency plan for students' work, should we be required to close in the coming weeks. Please let us know if your child does not have access to a computer at home, as work for all subjects will be available electronically, should a notice to close be issued from the government and Public Health England. Please encourage your child to practise logging on to the school Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and MathsWatch system at home, as these online platforms will be used to set work in the event of school closure. If your child is unable to log on, please contact the school email address mentioned below.

We would like to continue to share updated information with parents/carers in as many formats as possible, including email. If you do not receive information regularly from the school via email, please contact admin@harrogatehighschool.co.uk as a matter of urgency, to ensure that we have the correct details for you and to ensure that your child has access to work during any closure. We also have a dedicated page on our school website, to provide up to date information from the government.

Please remain vigilant with your own and your child's health. If you believe that you or a member of your family may have contracted the virus, please keep us informed via the school absence line, self-isolate and follow the guidance that you are given by 111 or Public Health England. Advice is to not go to your GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Self-isolation advice can be found on <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

Please be assured that we are taking every step to ensure the safety of students and staff in school. Clearly this is an uncertain time for all, and we will continue to update you as soon as possible, should the situation change.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school, should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Clarke
Head of Academy