

DSN/NBA

13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

The coronavirus outbreak is clearly a rapidly evolving situation both in terms of infection rates and the impact on day to day life. While we cannot predict when the outbreak will have peaked and start to subside, we hope that the disruption will ultimately be short-lived.

In the meantime, we thought it would be helpful to explain what we are doing as a Trust to minimise the potential impact of coronavirus in our schools. I can confirm that we are receiving regular updates from the Department for Education and Public Health England and doing everything possible to mitigate the risk and ensure that it is business as usual, as far as possible.

We recognise that at some point school closures may be enforced in the UK to halt the spread of coronavirus and leaders across the Trust have pulled together a contingency plan if that was to happen. Clearly there is an expectation that if schools do close, some form of education will have to continue. We will share our planning around this in due course. At the time of writing, there is no indication from the Government relating to an enforced national school closure. If enforced school closure was to happen, we will communicate via local media stations, send you a message through our parent text service and put a message on social media and the website.

In order to reduce the spread of any infection, students are being given guidance by staff about good hygiene, which includes:

- Using tissues to catch a cough or sneeze, then binning the tissue and washing hands.
- Washing hands frequently.
- Using an alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are unwell.

The Trust has ensured that the cleaning of the school is a priority. Our hand washing areas remain well stocked and we have talked to children about how to properly wash their hands, placing posters in key areas to remind us all to maintain good hygiene.

We are monitoring all trips/visits and making decisions on a case by case basis, again following the latest advice from Public Health England.

In the meantime, there is no reason why your child should not continue to attend school as normal. As you will be aware from national news bulletins, current guidance in the UK is to carry on our daily activities as normal but to be extra careful in terms of personal hygiene. We need to take further precautions if travelling to one of the named 'at risk' countries.

Please note that if a child or family member is confirmed by a health professional as having tested positively for the virus, the Academy will be contacted immediately by a public health team who will work with the school regarding the steps to be taken to manage the risk.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and should we get any new advice from Public Health England, the Department for Education or the Local Authority, we will inform you immediately. The most up-to-date advice to the public is available from [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) and we will continue to share any new information and advice via the Trust/Academy websites.

Yours sincerely



D.L. Sutton  
Chief Executive Officer