

11th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus (COVID19) Parent Update

As you will be aware from the news, the Coronavirus (COVID19) has continued to spread across the world and cases have appeared here in the UK. The Leadership Team and Governors have been working closely together to ensure a sensible, proportionate response to the advice given to schools by the Government and Public Health England.

We **do not** wish to make pupils anxious and simply want them to continue to enjoy learning in a safe environment. Nevertheless, we take seriously our responsibility to care for pupils and staff. At this stage, in line with current advice, we are putting an emphasis on pupil personal hygiene; washing hands regularly and properly, disposing of tissues and seeking advice from teachers/support staff and parents/carers should they feel unwell. Your support in these matters will be welcome.

I can confirm there has been no cases at GTS and we have not identified links to any confirmed cases.

We have created a detailed risk assessment/action plan to support and manage the school. We have collectively considered the advice from government and health with plans covering: -

- Pupil/ staff wellbeing
- Educating pupils on personal hygiene
- Measures to improve the school's provision for personal hygiene
- Plans to support pupils with individual health conditions
- Changes to cleaning regimes and increased protection for our staff
- Hygiene expectations for visitors and contractors onsite
- Plans for the closure of the school if required by Public Health England and the resulting cleaning required by public health
- Plans to support education if the school closes, with a clear focus on supporting Year 11 as they prepare for their exams.

I am meeting with key staff to discuss the daily advice we are receiving from Public Health England and the DfE. Any actions required are addressed in line with advice.

We have a number of events and trips over the coming weeks and we will continue to consider the impact of COVID19 on these. Where relevant we have started to write to the parents of those pupils involved.

With the holidays approaching I would ask you to be mindful of the advice being given regarding travel. The current advice can be found below. If this advice changes, with regard to return to school following trips abroad, I will contact you again.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas>

I will keep all parties informed of any decisions or advice as and when it becomes relevant. The situation is changing rapidly but for the time being the school will be remaining open and it will be business as usual.

Yours faithfully



Andy Bloodworth
Headteacher

GTS