

15th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Parent Update

Following on from our recent communication, the UK Government has issued updated guidance regarding the Covid-19 outbreak. We are continuing to monitor the situation to ensure a sensible, proportionate response to the latest advice issued and want to ensure our pupils continue enjoying to learn in a safe environment.

The latest advice, issued yesterday, is to self-isolate for seven days in the event of a persistent cough or high temperature (defined as a fever above 37.8C). In this instance please contact the school to report pupil absence as normal, identifying the situation.

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

We take our responsibility of care very seriously for pupils and staff and as such I am continuing to meet with key staff daily to discuss the advice from Public Health England and the DfE. At this stage, in line with current advice, we are continuing to put 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 is appreciated.

We have a number of events and trips over the coming weeks and will continue to consider the impact of Covid-19 on these. The Government has also announced a ban on foreign school trips, though we are unaware how long this will be in force for. We have two foreign trips planned which could be affected by this, and are in contact with these families as accordingly.

With the holidays approaching I would remind you to be mindful of the government advice regarding travel. The latest advice can be found using the links below, which replace the link previously supplied. The first gives the latest government 'stay at home' advice, the second is the latest country specific travel advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

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 remain open and will be business as usual.

Yours faithfully



Andy Bloodworth
Headteacher