

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Parent Update

Following on from recent communication, the UK Government has issued updated guidance regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. We are continuing to monitor the situation to ensure that we are responding in line with current Government advice.

The latest advice, issued Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020, is to self-isolate for 14 days if yourself or anyone in the household has a **new persistent cough or high temperature** (defined as a fever above 37.8C). In this instance, please contact the school to report your child's absence by calling the main school number and pressing "2" to put you through to the absence answer phone. Please make it clear why your child is off school, whether it be for self-isolation as a precaution, or because your child is suffering from one of the known symptoms of COVID-19, or for any other ailment/appointment as usual. Please follow NHS guidance if the symptoms persist or worsen. I can once again assure you there have been no confirmed cases at GTS.

We are continuing to follow advice by Public Health England and the DfE and in line with this 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.

Due to the latest Government measures, GTS will be operating a core purpose model, i.e. providing the essential service of educating your child. Regrettably, the following events/activities have therefore been cancelled or temporarily postponed. If in doubt, please assume it is cancelled.

- All Peripatetic (Music) lessons
- All before and after school activities, including Reading Club
- Year 7 Parents' Evening
- All trips, including E&I offsite activities
- All Easter Revision Sessions
- All non-essential, extra-curricular activities (you will be informed if it impacts your child)
- Homework Hub
- All sports fixtures

In order to continue education at home, in the first instance please refer to "Show My Homework" <https://gts.satchelone.com/login> We have also invested in SAM learning as an additional resource <https://platform.samlearning.com/> Information will be sent out to all pupils and parents/carers on how to access these systems.

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 be remaining open and it will be business as usual.

Yours faithfully



Andy Bloodworth  
Headteacher

GTS