

Our ref: JFM/IS/JC

13 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on some of the decisions the academy is currently making to ensure we are meeting the relevant advice in relation to coronavirus from both the Department for Education and Public Health England. I would also like to reassure you all that currently we have no student or staff member diagnosed with COVID-19.

The most recent advice we have received from Public Health England requires that anyone who has a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature to self-isolate for 7 days. Therefore, any student or staff member presenting with these symptoms will be asked to return home. If you notice that your son or daughter presents with any of these symptoms, please do not send them to school, but arrange for self-isolation for 7 days and seek advice from NHS England. We have spoken to all students about hand hygiene and reiterated the NHS guidance on reducing the risk of infection.

As part of our contingency plans we are making provision for the future. If, for example, we see an increase in staff absence, we are making arrangements to teach large groups of students in lectures, led by senior leaders at the school. We are also building a range of resources for all students together with qualification materials for year 11 and 13 students, which can be accessed from home, to ensure they have everything necessary to prepare for their upcoming exams.

We continue to receive daily updates from both the Department for Education and Public Health England and currently there is no restriction on the continuation of sports fixtures, please be assured that we are monitoring this situation closely. I have, however, taken the decision to cancel or postpone all day trips and visits to ensure that our lessons are fully covered by staff.

In line with guidance from the DfE and Public Health England all overseas trips are currently cancelled. We are really disappointed for our students who have been looking forward to their trip and I can assure you that, as a matter of urgency, we are seeking some clarification on the likely end of the current travel ban. Furthermore, we have already contacted the overseas trip providers and our insurers for information on how we are able to recover payments which have already been made.

Finally, I would like to update you on some additional precautions we are taking with students in Aspen 2. We have decided, as a precaution, to check the temperature of all Aspen 2 students when they arrive at the academy each morning. We are using digital thermometers that read a child's temperature when in close proximity to their forehead, ensuring that the activity is not invasive. If a student is found to have a high temperature we will make contact with you immediately, as the Public Health England advice is that they should self-isolate for 7 days.

Yours faithfully



Mr Jamie MacLean
Principal