

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Pupils and Parents

As you will be aware, the Government has now moved to the next stage in their efforts to combat COVID-19. The Trust is following Government guidelines and we are awaiting further direction in terms of what measures we are expected to take. This might include partial or full closure of one or more of our Academies to prevent the spread of infection. At this moment in time, we remain open for business as usual unless your child has symptoms of the virus, is self-isolating in line with government advice or is in one of the high risk categories outlined below.

You will appreciate that whilst we do remain open, your child may experience different learning situations to normal, such as learning in a different room, class or in collapsed groups due to staff absence as a result of the virus where staff are self-isolating for the reasons set out below, which all members of society are asked by the government to follow.

In line with government guidance, if any one person in any household has a persistent cough or fever, everyone living there must stay at home for 14 days, please do not send your child to school in this situation or send in siblings if one or more members of your household are isolating.

In addition, all pupils who are identified as having 'increased risk' will be expected to remain at home from tomorrow onwards. The following is a direct copy of the government's guidance as to whom this includes:

- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (i.e. anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
  - chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
  - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
  - chronic kidney disease
  - chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
  - chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
  - diabetes
  - problems with your spleen – for example, sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed
  - a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy
- being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
- those who are pregnant
- people who have received an organ transplant and remain on ongoing immunosuppression medication
- people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radiotherapy
- people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia who are at any stage of treatment
- people with severe chest conditions such as cystic fibrosis or severe asthma (requiring hospital admissions or courses of steroid tablets)
- people with severe diseases of body systems, such as severe kidney disease (dialysis)



If your child is in one of the vulnerable groups detailed above you must follow this advice and not send them to school. You must report their absence using the normal absence procedures. Where pupils are in self-isolation due to this government advice the Academies will authorise their absence, so this should not be a worry for parents.

We would encourage all parents to familiarise themselves with the government advice on social distancing. This can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Our pupils remain our top priority, and therefore should you be in the situation whereby your child needs to remain at home and self-isolate they can still access school work and keep up to date with learning as best as possible following the guidance and advice issued by the Academies yesterday.

We continue to monitor the rapidly changing situation and will update you as things change.

Thank you for your understanding and support during this situation and my very best wishes to you and your family at this very difficult time.

Best wishes



Marion Plant OBE  
Chief Executive Officer

