

13 March 2020

Parents of Year 11 and 13

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus - updated advice

As the government has announced a move to the "delay" phase of its plans to tackle coronavirus it has also confirmed that schools should remain open.

Public Health England have announced new guidance for people with confirmed or possible infection. This means that those with a new continuous cough and/or high temperature should not leave their house for 7 days from when the symptoms started. This is in addition to the 14 day self isolation for anyone who has had exposure to a confirmed case but has not shown symptoms. The full guidance is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>. If your child develops such symptoms and needs to remain at home then please let us know and keep us updated.

The guidance for helping prevent the spread of infection (of coronavirus and other viruses) includes a strong focus on hygiene.

- Washing hands with soap and hot water for 20 seconds at regular points during the day
- If you need to cough or sneeze: **Catch it** with a tissues, **Bin it, Kill it** by washing your hands
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Please could you reinforce these key messages at home just as we are doing in school.

Obviously, these prevention measures have led to a significant increase on the hand washing facilities in school. Monitoring checks of these facilities have been increased across the school but if a student discovers a soap dispenser which is empty or broken we would encourage them to report it to a member of staff so this can be rectified promptly as we recognise these facilities are a key part of the prevention measures.

On Monday the Department for Education update to schools included the following information with regards to the form coming exam series:

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“We recognise that students, parents, schools and colleges will be concerned about the possible impact of coronavirus on the 2020 summer exam series. Ofqual’s advice at this time is to continue to prepare for exams and other assessments as normal. Ofqual continues to work closely with exam boards, other regulators and the Department for Education to plan for a range of scenarios, as the public would expect. Our overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum. It is still many weeks until exams start and we will issue updated advice if necessary, giving schools and colleges as much notice as possible.”

Please could we remind all those involved in the summer exam series that, if any exam has to be postponed, it could be arranged for any day in the exam period, which runs up to, and including 24 June 2020. It is therefore essential the all candidates are available for the full duration of the exam window. They are unlikely to be entitled to special consideration if they miss an exam under contingency arrangements.

Last week the DfE launched a new helpline to answer questions about coronavirus related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

- * Phone: 0800 046 8687
- * Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk
- * Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

If you require any further information the government have pointed us towards the following in their regular updates:

- Updates on COVID-19: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- Guidance for educational settings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>
- List of countries and areas with implications for travellers or visitors: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas>
- Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>
- Government action plan: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>
- Hand hygiene messages: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-information-campaign-focuses-on-handwashing>
- Public Health England resources: <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101-coronavirus-/resources>
- Latest DfE information: <https://twitter.com/educationgovuk> and <https://www.facebook.com/educationgovuk/>

Please ensure you stay familiar with, and follow, the current advice provided by Public Health England.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Roundhay School