

17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

I am writing to outline the actions the school is taking to support our students, families and staff. We are aware this is a rapidly changing situation and our response will be informed by the daily briefings from central Government, in addition to advice from Public Health England and the Local Authority.

At this current time, the Government's policy remains that schools should remain open. We will of course keep you updated with any further information and implications.

The most recent guidance from the Government and Public Health England was announced yesterday afternoon. Here is the link that hopefully you will find useful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Advice regarding isolation

The advice regarding isolation has been updated. As such, if one member of your family household has a new, continuous cough or high temperature, all members should stay at home for 14 days.

Non-essential social contact

The advice regarding non-essential social contact has changed. In order to support this, the school has taken the following actions:

- We will not hold assemblies/collective worship
- All lets where there are at-risk groups attending or large numbers of people, will be cancelled
- Trips will be postponed or cancelled for the next 10 days.

Absence from school

Absences will be authorised in the following instances:

- For any student involved in household isolation
- For any student with an underlying medical condition (at risk) who has been advised by their clinician to stay at home
- For any student with a household member who has an underlying medical condition and has received advice that all household members should restrict contact.

Parents/carers should keep the school informed regarding their child's absence. If you are self-isolating please ensure that you phone the school though the normal attendance line; Option 0 on the phone or email Mrs Nash, our Attendance Officer on nnash@chacademy.co.uk and clearly state that you are self-isolating. Once you have informed us, we will presume you are then self-isolating for a period of 14 days and you do not need to call us again until that period is up.

We will use the Show My Homework website to indicate the planned work in lessons and activities that students can engage in, whether they are in school or self-isolating at home.

School Closure

Should the school be required to close, this may be on a full or partial basis e.g. open to certain year groups only. In this circumstance we will inform parents through announcements on the school website, BCC school closures website, Facebook and by email.

In my last communication I asked for students to ensure that they had their school email accessible and working. Please do ensure that your son/daughter checks that this is working. We are planning an approach that can be used for remote learning. Details of this will follow.

We do appreciate that older students will be particularly worried about the forthcoming external examinations. There are discussions nationally about these and as soon as we have more information we will share this with you.

We are in a period that is unsettling to us all. I would like to thank parents, students and staff for their support in working together to make the best of the current difficult times that we are currently going through.

Yours sincerely

MR K PATRICK
Principal