



Aldercar High School

In pursuit of excellence

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Head Teacher: Mrs C Hatto

16th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to advise you that a parent of one of our students has tested positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus). This person is now under the care of the Royal Derby Hospital. As a precautionary measure, the affected family are in self-isolation at home for the next 7 days having been in contact with NHS 111.

As a result, I have taken advice this weekend from Public Health England and their clear message is that the school should remain open.

I would also like to inform you that we have been thoroughly planning over the past few days for the potential issues that we could face as a school over the coming days, weeks and months. As the situation unfolds, you will be advised in a timely manner of measures designed to both protect our school community as well as allow education to be delivered.

In the event of an enforced closure of the school, work will be set via the Remote Access icon on our website. We have asked all students to check that they can access both their emails and this work area from home. All students have been asked by their Form Tutors if they have got ICT access from home. For those who haven't, alternative routes of access will be provided.

We appreciate that this is a particularly worrying time for our students who are due to sit public examinations this academic year. At present, the Joint Council for Qualifications and the examination boards are awaiting advice from the Government on what to do if schools are required to close. In the meantime we will continue to prepare for these examinations as normal with the current mock examinations, intervention sessions and coursework deadlines running as normal.

Since our return to school after half term, we have provided guidance to both staff and students on how to minimize the risk of infection through good personal hygiene. NHS posters and guidance have been placed around the school. In addition, the Site Team are ensuring that all soap dispensers are well stocked.

As you are more than likely aware, the Government have announced a move from the Contain phase to the Delay phase of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) action plan.

Full details of each stage of the Government action plan can be found following the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who show symptoms of:

- a high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- a new, continuous cough

to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means that people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

You do not need to call NHS 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency, dial 999.

Current advice remains in place: no education setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England. The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce will be substantial, with the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to schools will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

The most important thing that individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport. This NHS film gives further guidance:

<https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

The Department for Education Coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 for staff, parents and young people. The helpline contact is:

0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

When we have any further updates, we will of course write and text out to parents as well as keep our website up to date.

In the meantime, we are reminding parents of the importance to inform the school on the first day of absence for any pupil who is unwell and is staying at home, via the school number 01773 712477.

Finally, we send our best wishes to our affected family as well as anyone else who is affected.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Hatto
Head Teacher