



16th March 2020

Dear parent/carer,

RE: CORONAVIRUS

I am writing to update you about the school's current position regarding Coronavirus. We take the health and safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff very seriously, and, as such, we want to reassure you that we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education (DfE).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

The risk is currently low in Newton Aycliffe, however to minimise the spread of any infection in school we are:

- Encouraging handwashing
- Monitoring all students and staff
- Postponing all **upcoming** events, fixtures and trips from school:
 - Year 7 parents' evenings
 - Specialist Day
 - Dance Showcase
 - All sporting fixtures involving other schools

We will continue to run our own on-site extra-curricular activities, with the principle being this is the same as teaching a normal lesson

As you may be aware, we have the following overseas visits planned:

- French trip
- Thailand trip

The current advice is that schools cancel **upcoming** visits abroad, but as these are scheduled for the summer term, they **are not** currently cancelled. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and will update those families involved in the trips as soon as possible.

If circumstances arise where the school must close, we will inform you in our usual way (text message and school web-site) We already have plans in place for supporting your child's education should a closure become necessary. I have made it clear to all staff that the priority is Year 11, based on the proximity of their final GCSE exams. I hope parents / carers of students in other years understand and support this:

Cont...

Registered Office Address: Woodham Academy, Washington Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4AX
Tel: 01325 300 328 / Fax: 01325 301 950 / E-Mail: info@woodham.org.uk / Web: www.woodham.org.uk



Year 11	Year 10 (students sitting exams this year)	Years 7,8, 9 & 10 (not sitting exams this year)
Daily email from teachers	Daily email from teachers	Work will be set via Doodle for these year groups
Work set by 10am each morning	Work set by 10am each morning	Work set by teachers will be on a weekly basis as a minimum, but we will aim to check work is being complete as often as possible
Work to be sent back to teachers by 9.30am the following day (unless given longer by teacher)	Work to be sent back to teachers by 9.30am the following day (unless given longer by teacher)	Communication with teachers is possible via email, but I would hope this would be kept to a minimum in order to allow teachers to work more closely with year 11
Teachers will be checking emails regularly to help answer questions	Teachers will be checking emails regularly to help answer questions	
Some teachers may choose to use Microsoft Teams (link in office 365)	Some teachers may choose to use Microsoft Teams (link in office 365)	

Prevent the spread of infection

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water and scrub for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then place the tissue in a bin and then wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home
- If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

The most recent UK government advice (12.03.2020) is that anyone with a new continuous cough and a high temperature should self-isolate for seven days.

If you or your children have returned from abroad in the last 14 days, please follow the link below for advice about category 1 and 2 countries.

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk>

Symptoms to look out for

If you've returned from any of the category 1 or 2 areas or countries, look out for the following symptoms:

- Cough
 - Difficulty in breathing
 - Fever (a temperature of 38 degrees C or higher)
 - Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with other flu viruses. Please see the link below for information about self-isolation.
- ❖ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation-for-patients-undergoing-testing/advice-sheet-home-isolation>
- ❖ Call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention)

As I mentioned, we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the DfE, but this is being updated regularly in response to the changing situation. We will monitor and follow the national guidance as it is updated and would urge you to do the same.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact main reception, where staff will direct your call accordingly.

Thank you for your support

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.P. Bell".

Andrew Bell
Headteacher

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