



17 MARCH 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### **CORONAVIRUS**

As you will be aware through the various media streams the development of the COVID-19 virus and resulting actions has moved on apace over recent days.

As a school please be assured that we will respond to all guidance given by the Department of Education and Public Health England in an informed and measured way.

The school will remain open unless instructed to do so or operationally we are unable to maintain an acceptable level of safeguarding for students.

Students should continue to attend school unless they display symptoms of Coronavirus, however mild. You can access information via the links below but symptoms include:

- A new and persistent cough
- A high temperature

Under current guidance students should not attend school if they are experiencing symptoms or live within a household where someone is self-isolating due to displaying symptoms. In either of these instances they should self-isolate for 14 days. Whilst we have been planning for this we realise that as we move forward there will be additional difficulties in school. These will be due to the unprecedented levels of staff and student absence.

If staff absence increases over the coming days and weeks it may be necessary to move to 'partial closure' where certain school years will not be in school but work from home. In the event of this being put in place the order of home study will be as follows.

1. Year 12
2. Year 9
3. Year 10
4. Year 8
5. Year 7
6. Year 11 and Year 13

This will be a fluid situation whilst staffing levels vary. Once self-isolation has ended we will return to school based study. I will ensure details of any such action will be sent to you at the earliest point. Until informed otherwise, students should attend school if not self-isolating.

Following a meeting of senior staff and supported by our governing body I have decided to postpone until further notice assemblies, parents' evenings, visits and sports fixtures out of school and visiting speakers etc into school. We held assemblies yesterday to reassure students and to promote simple hygiene processes when washing hands, coughing and sneezing.

In the unlikely event of a school closure or to support students having to self-isolate please ensure that your child is able to access their school email address. Staff will, as necessary inform students of where to access work for the period of their absence. I would appreciate your patience in this matter as we put these measures in place. If your child does not have access to a computer/laptop, please contact their House Progress Manager to enable us to arrange an alternative. In the unlikely event that your child cannot access their school email, please contact our network manager, Mr Cook [ncook@whitbyhs.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:ncook@whitbyhs.cheshire.sch.uk)

As yet, there is no indication that there will be any alterations to the summer examinations schedule so Year 11 and Year 13 must remain focussed.

How can you support us?

- If you suspect your child has symptoms of the virus or someone in the household has symptoms, please do not send them into school
- Please let us know as soon as possible if your child is self-isolating. Please give reasons why.

Please reiterate to your child the impart of hygiene and washing their hands regularly. If they wish to bring hand sanitiser into school, they must use it sensibly.

Please refer to guidance by checking the banner on our school website and through the following websites:

[www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

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

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

I will issue future guidance as this becomes available through our E-Bulletin, the school website and email. Please check your junk mail if you find you are not receiving information.

These are unprecedented times for us all, however please be assured I will continue to review the situation regularly and keep you informed.

Your sincerely

**Mr B Heeley**  
Headteacher