

13 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 Virus Update

I understand that many of you will be feeling very worried at the moment, so I wanted to update and reassure you about what we are doing to safeguard our school community against the COVID-19 coronavirus. Thankfully, we have not yet had any confirmed cases of the virus at our school, and we continue to follow the Public Health England (PHE) guidelines very closely. Yesterday, the Government advised that that if you develop a new persistent cough and/or high temperature (37.8 degrees or above), to please self-isolate your child at home for 7 days.

The advice from the Government for people with symptoms has changed. You do not need to call NHS 111 but should follow advice on the NHS website and also the stay at home guidelines. Please see links included in this letter.

What to do if your child develops the symptoms

- Call the School Attendance Office on 020 8648 6627 (option 1)
- Inform the Attendance Manager of your child's name and symptoms
- Self-isolate for 7 days from the point of your child displaying mild symptoms
- You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into isolation
- If your condition worsens, call NHS 111 or in an emergency call 999
- If after 7 days your child no longer has any symptoms, he/she may return to school

Virtual learning in the event of school closure

In the event of a school closure and to minimise the disruption of learning for your child, we have arranged a virtual learning platform to enable continued learning from home. You and your child will be able to access further guidance from the school website, in the event the school has to close.

We will utilise the virtual learning platform 'Show My Homework' and where required, will send communication to students via their school email account. Please check with your child that they have their login details for both accounts.

If the school has to close, we will contact you via Parentmail, text and update our website. I would strongly advise that if you have recently changed your contact details (mobile and/or email address) to please inform the school office of the changes as soon as possible. Please call 020 8648 6627 or email school@stmarksacademy.org.uk

Principal Lisa Peterkin

Travelling overseas during Easter break and/or other term breaks

- For your safety, we strongly recommend that you do not travel to countries listed as 'against travel' as advised by the FCO
- You should consult the latest travel advice from the FCO and Public Health England
- Subscribe to email alerts for the country/territory you're planning to visit. Get email alerts here <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Preventative Measures at the Academy

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you about the steps we have taken to ensure good hygiene and limit the risk of viral infection at school.

- Hand washing facilities with soap for all students, staff and visitors
- Enhanced cleaning regime carried out by our cleaning contractor
- Deep clean of the Academy carried out by our cleaning contractor
- A 'no hand shake' approach during our greetings
- COVID-19 guidance posters around the Academy
- Screening declaration form for all visitors on site
- Safe isolation procedures in place to deal with suspected symptoms
- Communication and guidance provided to students during coaching time
- Alcohol based surface wipes for each department and key areas
- Tissue available for every classroom
- All students have and continue to receive briefings on keeping safe & healthy during these uncertain times.
- Staff are regularly briefed on updates and actions to take to ensure the safe and wellbeing of St Mark's community

These measures will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

I understand this is a very concerning time for everyone, but it is important that we all remain calm and respond appropriately according to official advice and guidance. I wish all our families good health during these uncertain times.

With Love, Hope & Trust,



Lisa Peterkin
Principal

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The Diocese of
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COVID-19 Advice & Guidance

NHS Website	https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
Stay at Home Guidance	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
Public Health England	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public
Government Action Plan	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan
NHS 11 Online	https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19
NHS Guidance	https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
Travel Advice	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus

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