Dear Parents and Carers,

Since the outbreak of Coronavirus, we have worked to make sure our school communities are kept up to date with the situation and its impact on the day to day running of the schools.

Now that the government has indicated that the country will be moving into the “delay” phase of the action plan, the medical advice has changed. Anyone with a new persistent cough or high temperature is now advised to self-isolate for 7 days. At this stage, it is only the person with the symptoms who should self-isolate, NOT all family members. Anyone self-isolating should remain at home until 7 days after the onset of symptoms. After 7 days, if the individual feels better and no longer has a high temperature, they can return to their normal routine. Further details concerning self-isolation are available on the government website at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance

At this stage, schools are not being closed. As a Trust, we will follow government guidance on this, and we have no plan to close any of our schools unless this is the national strategy. Head teachers at all the Trust schools are working on detailed plans in the event of closure, and these will include the provision of home learning. You will appreciate that the situation is constantly changing and it is important that we are reactive to these changes, so we will not be sharing the detail of our planning until it has to be activated. Please do rest assured that we are investing time and resources to ensure that we have a workable strategy.

The current worldwide situation is unprecedented, and affects all aspects of our lives. We will continue to work to ensure that the schools are safe places for the children and that we make adequate provision for the children’s learning in the event that schools are closed. If you are worried, the Department for Education has set up a dedicated helpline which can be used by parents and young people. The telephone number is 0800 046 8687, or e-mail DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk. The opening hours are from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

We will continue to issue updates to advice and guidance when there is any material change.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Carter
CEO

13 March 2020