

Be inspired and achieve together

March 13th 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus

As an Academy, we continue to act on advice from the Department for Education and Public Health England in relation to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak. Since last week we have displayed useful information around the Academy advising pupils of the simple steps they can take to protect themselves and, in particular, those around them who are especially vulnerable (e.g. elderly relatives or those with pre-existing medical conditions). A summary of this information is below. Please note that face masks are not recommended by Public Health England or the World Health Organisation so we would not expect to see them being worn at school. We have previously shared details of the Department for Education helpline for pupils, parents and school staff. As a reminder, the details are as follows: *Phone: 0800 046 8687; Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk; Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday).*

We are also continuing to follow Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice on forthcoming trips (www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice). We will contact parents/carers of those pupils involved directly in the event that a trip is cancelled or if arrangements change in any way (as we did this week with the trip to Krakow in Poland). We appreciate that some parents may choose to withdraw their children from trips and we are fully respectful of your right to do that. However, we can only refund monies paid if we ourselves can recoup money from the travel company, venue or our insurers. From today all planned overseas travel from school has been cancelled. This will remain the case for the foreseeable future. Schools will now work with our insurers to understand the financial position for parents from cancellation of overseas travel, and will continue to share information as it becomes available.

At the time of writing, the UK is moving towards the 'delay' stage of the response to Coronavirus. It is possible, in time, that the government will make the decision to implement a range of 'social distancing' measures. This may include the decision to close schools and academies. In the event that the Academy is asked to close, we will do our utmost to continue to support pupils' learning remotely. Teachers will set work for their classes via Show My Homework. The work set by teachers may make use of resources already available or ask pupils to use various online learning systems to which pupils already have access. We know that the overwhelming majority of pupils have internet access at home or via a mobile phone. However, we appreciate that some pupils may not. If this is the case, we will ensure that alternative arrangements are made. If this affects your child, please could you telephone the school reception to let us know. This will help us to plan and ensure that communication is as clear as possible if the need arises. There are no planned changes to timetables or school opening. All Spencer Academies Trust schools will continue to open as usual, and to take specific public health advice on a daily basis.

This follows a change in government advice about the continuing management of coronavirus, under which anyone with a 'new, continuous' cough or high temperature has been asked to stay at home and to 'self-isolate' for seven days. People with symptoms are no longer asked to call NHS 111, but rather to look for information on the NHS website and 111 online. Information about the simple steps families can take to limit the spread of coronavirus is available [here](#).

We are aware that there will be considerable anxiety around the impending examination season. Ofqual, the examinations regulator, are working with examination boards and the Department for Education to ensure that appropriate contingency plans are in place to cover all eventualities. At this time, their advice is to prepare for examinations as normal. However, we will keep pupils and parents informed of any developments.

This is an unusual situation but we will continue to do all we can to carry on as normal. We are mindful, however, that some pupils will be particularly worried. If your child is in need of any additional help or support, please do contact your child's Tutor or Head of Year. If you have any other queries, please contact the school reception and we will do our very best to help. However, please be advised that we cannot give individual health advice and may recommend that you contact NHS 111 or the helpline above in order to have your questions answered.

Yours faithfully

Matt Robertson
Principal

Arnold Hill Academy is part of the Spencer Academies Trust

Registered office: Arthur Mee Road, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 7EW

The company's registered number is 7353824