



Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware, we have been providing guidance to you on Coronavirus as we receive it from the Government, through its shared links, via the InTouch communication system.

I want to further assure you that we are being vigilant and developing contingency plans in the case of an outbreak, in line with the Government Coronavirus Action Plan released yesterday.

Currently we are asking families who have concerns that a family member might have the virus, or concerns from having travelled in key countries or come into contact with the virus, to seek advice from NHS 111. Please do advise me of any advice, guidance or information received for your family in such circumstances (my email address is below).

Coronavirus is described as having symptoms similar to colds and flu. It can affect lungs and airways so for those in our learning, teaching and supporting work community, who experience respiratory or other conditions, it could be more serious were they to succumb to infection. Please see Public Health advice for a list of such conditions.

In line with Public Health advice, all students have been asked to use tissues to both cough and sneeze into, failing that to cough and sneeze into their elbow and to wash their hands in a certain, appropriate way as described in Public Health updates. The hand wash from dispensers in school toilet washrooms is antibacterial. It would be prudent to provide your daughter with a small supply of tissues and hand sanitiser for personal use throughout the school day.

Should a student be advised by Public Health to self-isolate, their absence will be recorded as a medical authorised absence.

The school will not close unless Public Health authorities require it to close. Should that be the case, we will inform you via the InTouch communication system and the website. At that time we would also share information regarding access to teaching and learning materials and expectations of students to continue learning for the duration of closure.

We have a number of Educational visits planned for the coming months including UK and overseas residential trips. I would like to reassure you that we are closely monitoring the latest advice to schools. We are working with organisations supporting our trips, to have contingency plans in place for all eventualities. These will be shared accordingly. At the moment we continue to operate day to day activities as usual and all plans for off site visits remain in place.

As everyone is aware it is difficult to second-guess how this virus is going to develop and how it may affect our community. The safety and good health of all our students, staff and visitors to the site is paramount. Since the symptoms of Coronavirus can occur with colds and flu, we ask you to err on the side of caution and contact NHS 111 for advice if you need reassurance on your daughter's current state of health. The Coronavirus symptoms are:

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath.

Thank you for your support around all of this. Please do contact me if you have further questions that are not answerable via the links below.

My email address is [v.walker@qegschool.org.uk](mailto:v.walker@qegschool.org.uk)

### **Where to find the latest information**

*Updates on COVID-19:*

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

*Guidance for educational settings:*

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

*Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:*

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

*Government Coronavirus Action Plan:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

### **Department for Education Coronavirus helpline**

The Department of Education have launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Parents and Carers, young people and Staff, can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Yours faithfully



Violet Walker  
Headteacher