

13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

In an effort to continue to keep you updated on the Academy's steps to maintain the health and safety of our pupils and staff in the face of the new respiratory illness COVID-19 (Coronavirus) I am taking this opportunity to write to you with the latest guidance from the school in line with that of the Department of Education (DfE).

As you may know, today the government has taken the step to move the country's response to the spread of the virus to "The Delay Phase" and in doing so has recommended that anyone displaying the following symptoms should remain at home to delay the spread of the illness:

- New continuous cough and/or
- High temperature

Reporting student absence

If the above criteria applies to your son/daughter then please contact the school to report the absence in the usual way stating that they are remaining at home due to respiratory illness symptoms. We would ask that any formal diagnosis of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) made during this absence is communicated to the school in order to support with limiting any further transmission. However, where this is not the case and the symptoms pass we would encourage students to return to school 7 days from when their symptoms started.

Students developing symptoms during school hours

Please be aware that if pupils show any of the above symptoms during the school day we will contact home and ask for your child to be collected. We will then ask you to follow the government's guidance as you see appropriate.

Effects on staffing

In addition, these measures will also have an effect on staffing levels with staff having to stay at home if they show symptoms or to look after dependants. The Hampshire supply teacher agencies are already reporting difficulties in meeting the needs of schools across the county and these governmental measures will undoubtedly put more strain on the system. In order to ensure the health and safety of our pupils and maintain a quality provision of education the Academy will be taking internal steps to address staff absence and ensure continuity of teaching. However, if staffing levels are such that these cannot be adequately achieved we may have to close the school to one or more year groups. If this step is taken, we will prioritise the learning of our Key Stage 4 students with an emphasis on supporting Year 11 students as they prepare for their examinations. Although these measures will only be taken in emergency situations, we will work with parents and carers to give as much notice of closures as we possibly can.

www.fareham-academy.co.uk

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Headteacher: Mr C Prankerd, BSc (Hons), NPQH



I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the details of the Department for Education helpline for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) issues:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

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

Here is the link of the 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>

I would also like to thank you for your ongoing support in managing the health and safety of our students during these challenging times.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Pranker
Headteacher

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