



Chestnut Grove Academy

HEADTEACHER: Mr. Christian Kingsley MA MSc NPQH

13th March 2020

Dear Families

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to you and your children for the calm and supportive nature in which you have reinforced the school's proactive precautions to ensure the safety of our community with regards Coronavirus Covid-19. We are writing to inform and reassure you about the school's ongoing precautions and planning.

As previously communicated, we have we have put a lot of thought in and taken care to educate all of our pupils about the best handwashing techniques and reinforcing the basic ways to minimise risk of infection; as well as to reassure them regarding any concerns they have about Coronavirus. We have also put measures in place to ensure that all visitors to our school site, school contractors or general visitors, meet our protocols for keeping our community safe. We will of course continue to monitor the situation very closely, acting on guidance from external agencies and Public Health England, and we will continue to update you on our response

Following the updates announced after the government's COBR meeting yesterday afternoon, and the ongoing expert advice we continue to receive as a school, we are writing to update you with changes as follows:

We are still unaffected by any cases of the virus but continue to adopt a precautionary approach whilst still maintaining the core elements of school life for our pupils. There are members of our school community who are following the government's guidelines and are self-isolating.

The Senior Leadership Team have worked tirelessly this week to develop a contingency plan specifically regarding the Coronavirus outbreak to ensure that we minimise risks associated with the virus.

Staff have been incredibly supportive in covering for absent colleagues to ensure that students, particularly those with exams this summer, are taught by experienced and familiar teachers.



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The core operation of the school continues undiminished. However, to remove parents and families from a position of uncertainty and to offer clarity, the following bullet points summarise our latest position.

Curriculum

- Departments are in the process of uploading work onto virtual platforms so that students can access work from home in the event of a school closure. Students will be advised of how to access this work.

Staffing

Absence levels amongst staff are heightened as staff follow government advice on self-isolation. This is placing pressure on staff to cover lessons so that any disruption to learning is minimised. In order to support staff the following measures will be put in to place from Monday:

- Several members of part-time teaching staff have kindly agreed to work on their days off
- Staff are covering their lessons during their planning (PPA) time
- Some lessons will be covered by support staff with relevant degrees
- Staff will be re-deployed if necessary to ensure that exam classes are not disrupted.
- The Senior Leadership Team are covering lessons where possible.
- After school clubs will not be running between now and the end of term in order to free staff up for the additional planning they may need to undertake.

Trips

- The trip to Paris has been cancelled. Overseas trips planned for later in the year will be kept under review. Parents will be contacted separately about these arrangements.
- All day trips have been cancelled until Easter.
- We are currently reviewing domestic residential trips and will update staff and parents when we have further information from the government.



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Summer exams

- Please see attached document from OFQUAL which provides a web-link that will provide regular updates

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-statement-on-coronavirus?_cldee=bnJhamFuQGN0ZNXN0bnV0Z3JvdmUud2FuZHN3b3J0aC5zY2gudWs%3d&recipientid=contact-7b8997d3a12ce61181151458d043c6d0-afc27ddbaff14ad790f260a702bc0381&esid=cbd0846d-cb53-ea11-a812-000d3a49daf7

We ask for your support in this evolving situation; we are keenly aware of the difficulties many families face and are fully supportive of those with relatives and friends in affected areas. Schools, as close communities, are particularly vulnerable and it is important that we do everything possible to safeguard everyone in our care. Finally, Public Health England (PHE) currently advise that even if there is a confirmed case within the school community, closure of the school is unnecessary. We can assure you that in this situation we would take further advice from PHE to ensure the right proportionate local decision.

The government has also advised that people with a new persistent cough or high temperature should self-isolate for seven days. We therefore ask you to keep your children at home if they have these symptoms and for the full seven days.

In terms of advice for parents, please use the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

It is important that we all do our best to ensure that our children's education is disrupted as little as possible and as always, everyone should continue to promote good hand and respiratory hygiene:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze, then bin the tissue and wash your hands (or use a sanitiser gel).



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- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Kingsley
Headteacher
Chestnut Grove Academy – A Creative Learning Community