

16 March 2020
Dear Parent/Carer

As the scale and significance of the Coronavirus pandemic starts to become apparent, I'd firstly like to reach out to the whole community regarding the challenging times that we are all entering. Some will be more directly affected than others, but this outbreak is going to fundamentally change our lives over the coming weeks and months, and its impact will last for years. We know that this will affect physical health, emotional wellbeing, and economic security for many. Our thoughts are with you and your families, and especially those who may fall ill in the coming weeks and months.

No doubt you will have seen the latest government advice, which states:

- If you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started.
- If you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.
- Schools should remain open at present, but all but non-essential activities are being strongly discouraged in accordance with significant 'social distancing' advice.
- Symptoms include a high temperature or a new and continuous cough. Anyone in this category showing any possible symptoms should follow the advice of Public Health England / the NHS (via the online service / NHS 111).
- The self-isolation guidance in full is available here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
- Public health advice remains that all handwashing etc. is more important than ever. Please continue to ensure that the right messages are getting through to the students.

Huish Episcopi will, until further notice, remain open to all year groups. We will, of course, see a greater level of absence from students and staff who fall into the categories above. We are working to ensure that the continuity of education is maintained in these difficult circumstances, and I would ask parents to reinforce to their children how hard staff are working to ensure that this is the case. I know that Huish Episcopi students will respond hugely positively to this over the coming days and, should the time come for partial or whole school closures, approach the new circumstances we face with maturity and resilience.

If your child presents with any symptoms during the school day we will follow the guidance from the government and contact you immediately. We ask that in these circumstances you collect your child(ren) as rapidly as possible to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

All non-essential activities will not take place in light of the government's advice to limit social contact.

- Participation in all PE fixtures and tournaments involving students from Huish, both here and at other schools, will be cancelled for the foreseeable future. We will not host visiting students. All after-school training sessions will also be cancelled.
- It is highly likely that planned trips or visits will not take place during the remainder of this term, but we will clarify this as we hear back from providers.

Huish Episcopi Academy

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Principal: Mr C J Wade BSc Registered in England and Wales: 7341553 Registered Office as above.

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Parents should assume that all events and meetings at the school are cancelled and we would ask you to make contact with the school (by phone or email) with any queries. Please note, however, that it may take some time to respond to the large volume of queries that we will be receiving. Thank you for your patience as we work through these.

We will continue to keep in regular contact with parents, with updated information on the school website or via email.

Look after yourselves and those around you.

Regards



Mr Chris Wade
Principal



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