



OLD BUCKENHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

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16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, the Government announced last night that the UK has now moved to the 'delay' stage of the COVID-19 planning. The advice issued by HM Government includes:

1. Schools to remain open.
2. No overseas school trips.
3. People with fever or persistent cough told to self-isolate for seven days.

Public Health England (PHE) has released new guidance for those staying at home with confirmed or suspected cases of coronavirus. The advice states:

1. Not to go to work, school, or public areas, use public transport or taxis - or even for a walk.
2. Those with even mild symptoms of infection should stay at least two metres away from other people in their homes and should sleep alone.
3. Those with confirmed or suspected cases should use a separate bathroom.

The NHS updated advice states:

1. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:
 - a. new continuous cough and/or
 - b. high temperature
2. For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection.
3. If you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. This action will help protect others in your community whilst you are infectious.

If your child has either a new cough or high temperature DO NOT send your child/ren to school if they have these symptoms.

Your full cooperation with this is absolutely vital.

The second challenge that I foresee is the potential that significant numbers of our staff will not be able to come into work either because they are self-isolating or because they are having to look after a child or family member who is unwell. There could come a point past which we cannot continue to provide a safe and purposeful



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environment. We have certainly not got to that point yet, and we have a number of contingencies in place, however, I felt it best to forewarn you that I cannot rule out further adjustments to our operational model.

As stated in my earlier letter, detailed plans are being put into place for online learning via Go4Schools and it is important that parents are familiar with the access arrangements to the platform. There will be ongoing and continuous changes we will need to make and it is important that you check our website for regular updates as well as checking emails from school.

One change which will happen immediately is that the water fountains will be turned off to avoid the risk of cross contamination. and students will not be able to fill water bottles. Please ensure students bring an appropriate supply of drinking water to school. The school will endeavour to supply hand sanitizers in each classroom, however, as you know the supply of such products has been limited. I would encourage students to bring in their own suitable hand sanitizers and note that these should not be shared between students. We will be reinforcing the message from HM Government about hand washing, social contact and ensuring we maintain a calm and proportionate response to this very unusual situation and your continued support is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Fell
Headteacher



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