



NORTON COLLEGE

Beyond Expectations

16 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus

I am writing to share with you the latest advice we have received from the Department for Education regarding Coronavirus, and the steps we are taking in school in accordance with this guidance. Please note that guidance to schools is being updated daily, and we shall keep you informed of changes to any of the advice given here.

Advice from the government is that no schools should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England. The college will therefore remain open unless we are advised otherwise.

As you will be aware, the government has moved its response from the 'Contain' phase to the 'Delay' phase of their action plan. You can find details of the government's plan here:

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

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

- a high temperature (37.8 degrees and above);
- a new, continuous cough.

The advice from the government is that you do not need to call NHS 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days, you should contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

If your child needs to self-isolate, please advise college of their absence, and the reason for it. We also ask that if your son or daughter has other family members who are self-isolating, your children should also self-isolate and stay at home. Again, please let us know.

Should any child in college show the symptoms, we shall isolate them in college and ask that you collect them so they can self-isolate according to NHS guidance.

You can find additional information from the government here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Advice to students

Personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle Coronavirus. In school we have shared information with students focusing on how they can minimise the risk of infection. In particular we have talked to them about the importance of following good hygiene habits to reduce the chance of transmission. Students need to make sure that they wash their hands correctly, particularly on arrival in school, after using the toilet, and before and after eating. They should also wash their hands on arriving home. They should come to school with tissues, so that they can catch sneezes and coughs and then throw away the tissue in the nearest bin. They should also avoid touching their faces. Please reinforce these messages at home.

Advice from the NHS on washing hands can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

We have soap dispensers in all toilet areas and in a number of classrooms where hands need to be washed regularly. Hand sanitisers with a high alcohol level are available in a number of locations in the school building.

School trips

The college has made the decision to cancel all school trips until further notice. The college will be in contact with further information regarding cancelled or postponed trips.

Parents' Evenings

These will go ahead as normal. Some staff in higher risk groups may not be present, but will contact you to discuss the progress of your child.

Spring Concert

The Spring concert, due to take place on 25th March has been cancelled.

Families who have been or are travelling abroad

As we approach the Easter holiday we would like to remind students and families who have returned to the UK from abroad that they should follow the most up to date advice from the government on steps to take. Information about this can be found at:

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

Advice is also available through the NHS 111 phone number and website.

Please keep school informed if you are advised by health professionals to self-isolate after returning from another country.

The college is continuing to receive daily updates from the government and is following all advice given.

Thank you for you supporting us in keeping all our children safe.

Yours sincerely



Dr Simon Carson
Headteacher