



## Information for Students

Many of you may be worried about the current outbreak of Coronavirus and will be wondering what it means for you and your families. Things are going to be a bit strange for a while and we will all have to get used to living our lives in slightly different ways.

It is important to realise that for the vast majority of people COVID-19 is a mild illness. In fact, only 50% of people who are infected actually develop any symptoms and of those that do, symptoms can be mild and include a cough, sore throat, aching and a high temperature.

You will have heard that some people can become more seriously ill and require hospital treatment, but this is when that individual has other health conditions and more often than not this affects older people. This could well be a cause for concern as you may have members of your family or friends who fall into this category, but be reassured that the vast majority of people in this situation do not require hospital treatment and can be looked after at home.

So what can you do to help prevent the spread of infection?

Simply...

- Whenever possible, wash your hands before school, before you eat/after you eat and when you get home. Washing hands is the single biggest preventative measure that there is.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. It is amazing how often we do touch our faces, but as soon as you become aware of this then you can try to stop doing it as much! The reason for this is that scientists have told us that the virus can only enter the body through membranes in these areas.
- Make sure that you are fully equipped for school so that you do not have to borrow equipment.
- And what are we doing?
- Keeping soap dispensers full.
- Wiping door handles and other surfaces up to four times a day.
- Teaching and supporting you.
- Preparing work online for students who need to self-isolate.
- Following the same hygiene rules that we are asking you to follow.

Unfortunately, trips and sports fixtures will be cancelled for the foreseeable future. If you have any questions about this, you can speak to the member of staff who organised the activity.

I was aware yesterday that a small number of students pretended to have a cough to be funny. Can I make it absolutely clear that this anything but funny. The impact of this can be valuable time wasted for staff, but more importantly can lead to increased anxiety for staff and students who may live with relatives who are vulnerable to infection. **Please be considerate of others.**

Finally, the symptoms of Coronavirus that you need to be aware of are a high temperature and a continuous cough. If you genuinely develop either or both of these in school, then please let your teacher know who will know what to do.

As I've said this is a worrying time for everyone, so if you have any questions or want to talk about any concerns please let your form tutor or any adult know.

In the meantime, we will do our best to continue as normal. I will keep you up to date as soon as I receive any more information.

Mr Heath

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