



TO CARE
TO LEARN
TO ACHIEVE

BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

A Specialist Business and Enterprise College
with Applied Learning

Headteacher: Mrs H J Phillips

March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

Coronavirus update:

You will be aware that a further announcement to contain the virus was made on Monday evening however this still does not involve the closure of schools.

What you need to know

- staff and students should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal. **Please note that the latest guidance says that if a person lives on their own they should self isolate for 7 days but if they live with other people the whole household should self isolate for 14 days.**
- if staff or students become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they will be sent home. This is why it is so important that we have up to date contact details for your child.
- We will clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces every day.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues.

The updated guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19#contents>

Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce would be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. He has said that decisions on future advice to education settings will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

Consequently, we will remain open unless we are officially advised to close or we do not have enough staff to run the school.

If we are forced to close during the school day, parents and guardians will be informed as soon as possible via the school's texting system and the school's social media platforms. Students will be released to make their own way home unless parents/guardians contact school and instruct us to retain their child for collection.

If it is not safe to open the school before the start of the school day parents/guardians will be informed as early as possible via the school's texting system and the school's social media platforms.

Please ensure we have an up to date mobile number so that we are able to contact you.

Because the situation is changing on an almost daily basis, update letters will be published on our Website and parents will be notified via social media. Hardcopies will not be sent home with students given the potential magnitude of paper and photocopying.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H Phillips
Headteacher

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