



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/Guardians

As you will be aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. I am writing to let you know what we are doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

I would like to reassure you that at Bedford we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government, Public Health England and Wigan Local Authority.

What's the current situation?

The school remains open – this is the current official guidance we have been given.

Students should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they should remain at home and self isolate for 7 days; this includes not seeing any of their friends and not having friends round to the house:

- a new, continuous cough and/or
- a temperature

If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally do by telephoning the school's absence line.

We will keep you up to date with any changes to this current situation.

What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff

Our cleaning regime includes disinfection of every hard surface, including door handles and other heavy usage areas. This happens at the end of every day.

We have provided hand sanitisers in every form room and reception areas in school.

We have held assemblies for every year group, led by Wigan's Senior Health Protection Specialist, to promote effective hand hygiene.

What we need you to do

If you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible.

Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It can be a frightening time and we should make sure children feel supported. BBC Newsround has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.

Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough).

What happens if the school has to close?

We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we will communicate with you to explain what will happen next.

In the event of closure, we will write to you separately about how we will set work for students and what we will expect of you to support us with this.

In the meantime, for parents/guardians not using Frog we strongly encourage you to do so. Support and links for Frog are on the school website. This includes if you need a new log in.

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 @BedfordHighSch

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Please be aware that there are currently no plans to close.

Please consult:

The Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to Coronavirus in relation to schools.

The [NHS](#) website if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111. The current advice is that you do need to call 111 unless your symptoms worsen or they have not improved after 7 days.

Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you are taking abroad should go ahead.

It is an uncertain time and we know you are worried about the impact this might have on our community. It is important that we remain calm, follow all of the guidance offered and continue to do all that we can to keep each other safe.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. J. Phillips'.

Mrs H Phillips
Headteacher