



Backwell School

A National Teaching School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus COVID 19

You may well already be aware that the UK has moved into the next stage of the Government's action plan against Coronavirus (Covid-19) which is 'Delay'. This means that there are changes in the guidelines issued to schools and the wider UK population. Key points to note are;

- anyone with a new, persistent cough and/or high temperature should self-isolate for seven days (at this time the government advice does not extend to family members but this may change in coming days);
- anyone showing any possible symptoms should follow the advice of Public Health England / the NHS (via the online service / NHS 111) and inform us. The full advice for self-isolation is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>.
- there is no need to close schools at the moment, but school trips abroad will be cancelled. We have already cancelled the French Exchange (outgoing) and German Exchange (incoming) and we are now beginning communications with tour operators and our insurance company regarding trips abroad during Enrichment Week. We will keep you updated on this.

As a school we will aim to operate as normally as we can. If your child needs to be off school for the above reasons, please ensure that you inform the school of the circumstances (using the absence line, as normal) so that we are aware.

Along with other schools in the Trust, we are working very hard to prepare for the potential situation of further sanctions and possibly school closures. In these circumstances we would be seeking to maintain continuity of education as much as is practicable. Clearly this will rely on the use of technology, for example Frog, to support learning to a significant extent. This will be especially key for those year groups with examinations this summer we would ask that parents do all they can to ensure that students have all they need 'to hand'; students' ability to learn and prepare independently will be more important than ever this year.

We will continue to be in regular contact with parents; for the latest information please refer to our website www.backwellschool.net/coronavirus.

Thank you for your patience at this testing time, the situation is moving very quickly and we are doing our very best to ensure the safety of all those in the Backwell School Community.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher