

16 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

It is likely that I may write regularly over the coming days and weeks due to the fluid nature of the current situation. We will continue to review and update the information on our website twice a day in the meantime.

At present the school remains open. There is no guidance or reason to keep children away from school if they are not ill. If we are concerned about your child's symptoms during the school day, we will contact parents/carers at the earliest opportunity.

Please do follow normal procedures and let us know if your child is not attending school because they are self-isolating, or indeed, if they are suffering from any other illness.

We will not provide information regarding any cases of self-isolation as per the advice from both the NHS 111 service and the Department for Education. This is a blanket measure and the overwhelming majority of people who self-isolate will not have the coronavirus.

The current situation is that we have a small number of students and staff who are following NHS111 advice because they have met the criteria of either a high temperature or new continuous cough. Individuals who are staying at home are not categorised as cases of Covid-19 and will not be tested for the virus. There is also no need to notify 111 or the Department for Education (DfE) of these cases.

Therefore, we currently have no known cases of staff or students who have tested positive for Covid-19. However, please note that we would take and follow advice for next steps from Public Health England if a member of our school community did have a confirmed case of Covid-19, as per DfE guidance.

Please note the current guidance, as of today, from the DfE and NHS remains that children and adults should self-isolate for a period of **7 days** if they have either of the following symptoms:

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough

Guidance about this and how to self-isolate can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

### Travel Advice

The latest advice for returning travellers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Again, please do let us know if there is anything that you believe we should be aware of.

### Face Masks

Please be advised that our policy in all aspects of dealing with the Coronavirus will always to be follow the advice given by DfE/NHS/Public Health England, and their guidance to educational settings surrounding the wearing of face masks is as follows:

*"Face masks for the general public, pupils or students, or staff are not recommended to protect from infection, as there is no evidence of benefit from their use outside healthcare environments."*

For this reason, students are to refrain from wearing face masks in school. If students or staff feel unwell or display symptoms of a continuous cough or high temperature, they should self-isolate at home.

### Preventative Measures

The Government's advice to schools remains to continue the practice of hand washing to prevent the spread of all kinds of virus' and to 'Catch It / Kill It / Bin It' for coughs and sneezes.

We are, of course, publicising all of the preventative measures around the school site and in tutor sessions. On Wednesday in our Work. World. Wellness. sessions students in all year groups will have a specific session dedicated to learning about the Coronavirus identifying the risks and preventative measures and the strategies that have been employed around the world and the potential impact on the economy.

We are employing additional cleaning staff during the day to ensure the cleanliness of the school site, concentrating particularly on door handles, taps, light switches and other high use areas.

### Theatre Trip – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020

The theatre trip scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> March will be postponed or cancelled. We are currently negotiating to rearrange with the operators. Further information about any rearrangements will follow in due course.



# MANOR SCHOOL SPORTS COLLEGE

## Assemblies

As a precaution we have cancelled all assemblies and are disseminating messages daily through tutorial sessions.

## Sixth Form Study Arrangements

The leadership team have taken the decision to temporarily suspend sixth form students' off-site arrangements during the school day. Students who are timetabled to start their school day later and/or finish earlier can continue to follow these routines. These measures will help to protect those in our school as well as those vulnerable members of our local community. The suspension will commence from 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until further notice.

## Contact and Helpline

We are grateful for parents' continued communication with the school and encourage you to contact us with anything you feel we need to be aware of, or if you have any questions that you feel we can help with. In addition, as stated in my previous correspondence, the DFE has opened a helpline for schools, which can also be accessed by parents and students. However, please be advised that the wait times on the helpline are now significant.

The details are as follows:

**Phone:** 0800 046 8687

**Email:** [DFE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DFE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

**Opening hours:** 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Thank you for your continued support.

Your sincerely

Jay Davenport  
Principal

**Principal:** Mr Jay Davenport  
Mountbatten Way, Raunds,  
Wellingborough, Northamptonshire  
NN9 6PA  
**T:** 01933 623921  
**E:** [enquiries@manor.school](mailto:enquiries@manor.school)  
[www.manorschool.northants.sch.uk](http://www.manorschool.northants.sch.uk)



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