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Dear Parent/Carer,

Although I wrote to you on Thursday, events are now moving quickly, and I want to keep you updated about Covid-19 and how it is going to affect the Academy and your child. My intention now is to update you on a regular basis, particularly following the now daily briefings from the Prime Minister.

At present the government's chief scientific adviser has reiterated that schools will remain open for now, although this is under continuous review by the government on a daily basis. Although it is a preference to stay open, I must now implement strategies to further protect and support students and staff. At the end of the Academy day I met with staff and have advised them that they should not come into school if they are in a vulnerable group (suppressed immune system, underlying health condition for example) or if they live with someone in that position. I would ask parents to make the same decision for their own child.

Therefore, you should keep your child off school if they are displaying any of the following symptoms:

- a new continuous cough or a high temperature or someone in your household has (they should self-isolate for 14 days from developing symptoms – Government advice).
- an underlying health condition which makes them vulnerable – our advice.
- if they have anyone in the household who has an underlying health condition which makes them vulnerable – our advice.

The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

In the meantime, we are taking measures to reduce congestion or avoid unnecessary contact in school. We will:

- not serve food at breaktime in DH1 to avoid large numbers in the dining hall. We will continue to serve our students at our before school breakfast club.
- review PE provision and I will provide you with further updates.
- contact parents/carers to collect their child as a precautionary measure, if they develop symptoms as we have a duty of care to all students and staff.
- cancel visits out of school for students.
- cancel all visits to the Academy, apart from key workers.

I also would like to share with you possible scenarios that may happen over the forthcoming days and weeks:

- do we have enough staff to open and keep our students safe?
- if or when we reach the scenario when we do not have enough staff to keep the whole Academy open, we will make a decision to see how much of the Academy we can safely open and partial opening will be confirmed.



- where we have partial opening, we will work in priority order, trying to stay open for Years 7 and 11. We will confirm this sustainability on a daily basis.
- we are also very conscious that we want to do everything we can to prevent key workers in our health and social care system and our community having to take time off to look after their own children. Therefore, we are looking into offering some form of childcare for the children of these workers to ensure we can support the NHS and our community.

If your child is ill, self-isolating or you are keeping them off school and they are well enough, we would like them to complete work. You will appreciate with all the changing demands on our time this week, that in the short-term setting bespoke work might be challenging. Therefore, we are setting up an online platform where students can access online resources via the Student Home Study page on our Academy website.

Finally, we are drawing up plans to keep in touch with vulnerable students and families, provide pastoral support for students and families who need it and finding ways of supporting students entitled to free school meals (we are awaiting advice from the Local Authority and the Department for Education to help with this).

This is a very challenging period, and I thank you for your patience and continued support. We will do all we can to support you and your child and our priority is not to raise alarm. I will write further when I have more information.

Your sincerely



Mr N Holder
Headteacher