

17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

At this time, following announcements by the Government and following the media coverage on the spread of Coronavirus, I wanted to take this opportunity to ask for your support and to explain the steps we are taking as a community and a school.

I am very aware, of the trust that you, as a parent, place in those who care for your child and I would personally like to reassure you that we will always act to ensure the wellbeing and safety of our pupils.

We are doing our very best to reassure your child, to maintain the daily routines, teaching and lessons that in a time of uncertainty, help to provide reassurance, predictability and a calm, safe place, for our children.

We have as a small school continued to talk with our pupils about our community, our values and how we can come together to seek support individually and how we can provide support for our friends and companions.

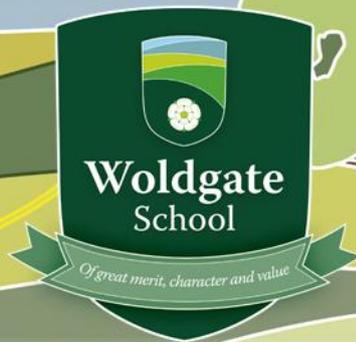
At the same time, I have asked my colleagues to share those key messages from the Government, with great care and sensitivity. I doubt any of the information I intend to share here will come as a surprise, but I wanted to reassure you that we are doing our very best to support your child, when they too are exposed to worrying factual and at times inaccurate information, on both official media outlets and on social media.

Firstly, we have no confirmed cases of Coronavirus in our population.

We do have an extremely detailed contingency plan that our family of schools are now following. Nobody can accurately predict what these next few days, weeks and months will bring, but we have planned very carefully for many scenarios and are following DfE guidance. So together with Stamford Bridge, Pocklington, Melbourne and our sister school Longcroft in Beverley, we will work collectively, in partnership, for all of our children.

Hot water and soap are available in every toilet and checked twice a day by senior colleagues. Pupils have been asked to wash their hands when setting off for school, during the day as normal and once they return home. We have also reminded them to regularly clean equipment, phones and other devices they may use frequently.





We would ask that you provide your child with tissues and talk them through the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' guidance. The use of a tissue, rather than hands to catch a sneeze and then the disposal of the tissue in bin.

Colleagues have also spoken to our children about being careful not to cause worry or spread rumours. We have had a couple of very understanding parents, who when told by their child of a rumour or when directed to a social media post, have informed the school rather than responding directly. No misinformation has been spread to our knowledge, but under the current circumstances, rumours and untruths can prove very worrying and upsetting. We would appreciate your support in speaking to your child, as in a heightened situation, people will react differently than normal to rumours and may not question their validity as they once did.

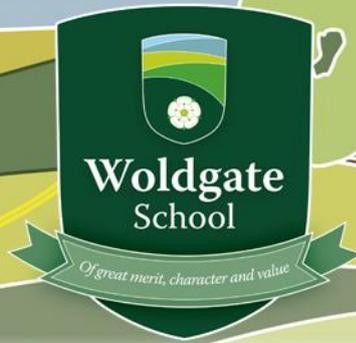
In line with Government guidance and policy, on Monday, we cancelled all international visits and have also stopped all UK based trips, including sporting fixtures, with the exception of those that are part of an examination syllabus. Visits that do proceed as part of an examined subject will be carefully risk assessed.

We are very conscious that Year 10 parents were looking forward to discussing their child's progress this week at Parents' Evening. We have though made the difficult decision as a school to rearrange the Parents' Evening for Year 10 to later in the academic year, in line with our Trust policy and following the announcement last week by the Government, to escalate the current situation to 'delay'. At this time, we believe, our priority needs to be on safeguarding the health of pupils and colleagues by minimising the number of large-scale events, so we can continue, as a school, to focus on the teaching of our children. As parents will be aware, we are currently approaching GCSE examinations and any virus that results in a member of staff needing to self-isolate will impact heavily upon our ability to teach classes across the school.

The school currently has GCSEPod in place for pupils, but the online teaching systems is currently being used by Year 10 and 11 only. We will over the next few days and weeks seek to provide access to online resources to support learning alongside formal classroom teaching. Currently Government guidance is that schools will remain open, do be reassured though that we are exploring all contingencies and are working tirelessly to support and plan for our children who currently will be sitting examinations this academic year.

We will also be asking pupils to self-isolate. If you are worried that you or your child is showing symptoms, then please do go to the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>, to read the guidance. A high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back, or have a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly are currently the two recognised early symptoms. We would also ask, if you're in any doubt about your symptoms or those of your child, after reading the information on the website, that you contact school. We will discuss the symptoms and advise you accordingly – even if you feel your child is well and you are displaying mild





symptoms, please remember that children may respond differently to the virus, so please be conscious of the impact of sending your child to school. We will discuss all of these matters with you on the phone.

Please use the direct telephone numbers provided for your **Care and Achievement Co-ordinator**. **They will take Attendance calls or texts as well as continuing to liaise with tutors, teachers and Heads of Department**. They will keep calls brief to keep lines open (so apologies in advance) and will respond to texts as soon as possible.

CARE & ACHIEVEMENT CO-ORDINATORS

 Mr M ELWERS YEAR 7 & 8 07790 351283	 Miss S BLACK YEAR 9 07980 702715	 Mrs C WRIGHT YEAR 10 & 11 07790 351281	 Mrs R BOURNE SIXTH FORM 07790 351276	 Mrs R O'BRIEN ATTENDANCE 07983 959031
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Finally, we will seek through this newsletter to keep you informed and will use our text system, Twitter and Facebook should we need to respond to a national announcement. If you do have any queries, then please e-mail, text or phone your Care and Achievement Coordinator and they will liaise with colleagues in school.

Thank you for your support, as ever.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Britton
Headteacher

