

Dear parents and carers,

Coronavirus update – 17th March

The wellbeing of our young people, staff and wider communities is our first priority. Thankfully, the experts suggest that children are not particularly vulnerable to the virus. It remains of the highest importance that our families and schools do all we can to protect each other and slow the spread of the virus.

We are closely following the advice of Public Health England. You can access this advice yourself by going to gov.uk and searching ‘coronavirus.’ Our cleaning teams are doing a great job, and pupils and staff have been reminded about the importance of washing their hands properly and regularly.

Public Health England advice

The latest advice is that if anyone has a high temperature and/or a new continuous cough they should stay at home for fourteen days. If symptoms worsen or get no better after 7 days, contact NHS111 online. In an emergency dial 999.

If you, your child, or anyone else you live with have symptoms of the virus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for fourteen days. The period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Public Health England are advising that everyone begins to follow advice about social distancing. This means avoiding those with symptoms, avoiding non-essential use of public transport, avoiding large gatherings, and avoid gathering with friends and family. This is particularly important if you, your child, or anyone in your household has a serious underlying health condition.

School closures

Like all schools, we are planning for the possibility that we may need to close some of our academies for a length of time. We have made plans for two main responses:

- Possibility 1 – Staff shortage due to staff self-isolating
- Possibility 2 – Forced school closure by Public Health England.

1. Staff shortage due to staff self-isolating

If an academy reaches a critical number of absent staff members, we will have to either partially or fully close to ensure the safety of everyone. If this is the case;

1. A text message/letter will be sent to explain the situation, and ask you to access the website for the latest information
2. The academy will display details about the closure on its website, stating if it has been possible to partially open for certain year groups
3. The academy will aim to provide work for pupils to complete, either online or in the form of work sheets.

If the academy is able to remain partially open, then we will prioritise Year 11 to maximise the amount of time we have to support them ahead of their GCSE exams this summer.

2. Forced school closure by Public Health England

If Public Health England closes some, or all, of our academies, each affected academy will:

1. A text message/letter will be sent to explain the situation, and ask you to access the website for the latest information
2. The academy will display details about the closure on its website, stating if it has been possible to partially open for certain year groups
3. The academy will aim to provide work for pupils to complete, either online or in the form of work sheets.
4. In addition, we are looking into plans to provide access to food for pupils who receive Free School Meals.

While we remain hopeful that we will not have to close our academies, we wanted to reassure you that we are planning for every eventuality. Unless otherwise stated, Oasis academies remain open, and we continue to follow government guidance.

Thank you for your support and understanding on this difficult issue. We will provide further updates as required, and please check your Academy website for the latest.

Yours sincerely,

John Murphy
CEO, Oasis Community Learning