



**THE BUSHEY
ACADEMY**

Proud to belong

17 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Further to the message sent to you yesterday evening, I am writing to you to update you on the COVID-19 situation. This is a difficult time for us all and I would like to praise the calm and considered way in which the whole school community has dealt with matters thus far.

The latest government advice is that if one person in your household has a new, persistent cough or high temperature, your whole household needs to self-isolate for 14 days. If your child is currently self-isolating and they have siblings in school, the siblings will also need to self-isolate for 14 days, even if they have no symptoms. It is very important that you do not send your child into school if they have symptoms or if anyone in your household has symptoms. All our staff are following this guidance too.

The Academy follows the advice provided by Public Health England here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> and the Department for Education. This means that, as a school, we have a plan which includes the following:

A. Day to day safe practice

All staff and students are reminded to wash their hands regularly (using soap and water), cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, and avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. This message has been reinforced in school, however we would ask that parents/carers also take the time to reinforce the message with their child and ensure that they bring tissues into school. We would like to reassure parents/carers that soap dispensers are refilled regularly and tested daily to ensure they are functioning correctly. We have also arranged for additional cleaning to take place each day.

B. School closure contingency

There are two potential scenarios in this area. Firstly, a national and full school closure that would impact all students. The second scenario is that due to extreme staff absence, we may have to close for selected year groups only. Whilst we all hope that this will not be the case, we have the following plans in place:

1. Communication

This would be carried out via the usual methods: school website & text message

2. Remote Learning

We are currently collating work to be put on Google Classroom. Further details will be shared with parents/carers should the Academy be required to close.

The Bushey Academy, London Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire WD23 3AA
Tel: 020 8950 9502 Fax: 020 8420 4038 Email: admin@thebusheyacademy.org www.thebusheyacademy.org

The Bushey Academy is part of the Meller Educational Trust which is an exempt charitable company (number: 06933010).
Registered office and correspondence address is 18 Colonial Way, Watford, Herts WD24 4PT.

C. Other changes

In light of the current situation, we will be:

- Postponing Year 8 parents evening: feedback will be provided via the upcoming written report
- Limiting all training visits that would involve our staff and/or students visiting other schools or attending large gatherings
- Postponing all sports fixtures
- Meetings with members of staff may not take place where these could be effectively replaced by an email or telephone call
- Cancelling assemblies

D. Wellbeing

It is only natural for children, and adults, to be worried about COVID-19. We will do all we can in school to reassure our children and maintain a calm environment. It is important to follow official guidance: www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public and if you are concerned, please contact the DfE helpline:

Phone: **0800 046 8687**

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

This is a challenging and unprecedented situation. Please be reassured that we are doing what we can to maintain the safety of your child whilst continuing to provide them with the best possible quality of education.

Any further decisions we make will be guided by our Trust, the Department for Education and Public Health England.

Yours sincerely



Jon Hebblethwaite
Principal