

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**RE: COVID-19 update**

Following yesterday's announcement from the Prime Minister, we are today writing to you to clarify our expectations on student and staff attendance.

Anyone who is experiencing symptoms of potential Covid-19 (a new persistent dry cough and/or temperature of 37.8° or higher) should self-isolate at home. This measure also applies to anyone living at the same residence as anyone with symptoms/a confirmed diagnosis. We do have some students and staff who are now self-isolating under this new guidance, and as we are sure you can appreciate, this is an ever-changing picture.

**Attendance**

We are aware that this latest guidance is likely to have a significant impact on attendance for students and staff. Each family will need to make their own decision on the risks of sending their child to school if they live with an individual classed as 'vulnerable' under the Government's guidance. However, we would like to assure you that new codes have been created for attendance, and should your child need to self-isolate due to either being unwell themselves or someone in their household being unwell, it should not negatively impact on their overall attendance figure at the end of the academic year.

**Work set for completion at home**

We are/have published work onto Show My Homework for all those who are already self-isolating. Should your child be required to self-isolate then they will also be expected to log onto their accounts and complete work set for them on here. At present we are unable to accept this work back to the Academy for marking, however we ask that where applicable students keep a record of their work to bring back with them so that we can ensure those who have worked hard are rewarded for their efforts.

All students are being asked this week whilst in the building to ensure they can log on to Show My Homework, and where needed we are reissuing PINs and re-setting passwords with students. We would also ask that you get your child to try logging on from home this evening and if they have any issues accessing this remotely that they bring this to our attention ASAP.

We are working hard to ensure that students who do not have access to IT at home will be able to do so in the event of a closure; we will be in contact with those that this impacts as and when needed.

We are in the process of creating work and systems in the event of a full or partial closure and these will be communicated with you should they be required; this includes booklets of work being printed which will be sent home with students tomorrow in readiness should they be needed.

### Trips Update

We have today received notification that the Reeds School trip over the Easter Holidays has been cancelled. All students due to attend this trip should carry out revision at home as was planned for the trip. Teachers will direct students as to what this should be.

We have also been informed that the AQA Geography Trip next week has been cancelled. We will be receiving a refund form the event organiser and as soon as this is received we will process a refund to all parents who have paid.

### Events Update

The Book fair scheduled for next week will be postponed to a date later in the year. We will confirm a new date once we have booked this in.

We continue to follow the guidance issued by the Government and the DfE; and are working closely with Oasis Community Learning to ensure our response to all new advice puts the well-being of all members of our Family at the forefront. We have attached to this letter (below) a letter from John Murphy, CEO of Oasis Community Learning, addressing some further points to do with planning preparation for the coming weeks.

Once again, thank you for your support at this time.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Booth  
**Executive Principal**



Ms C Green  
**Associate Principal**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

### Coronavirus update – 17<sup>th</sup> 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;

- A text message/letter will be sent to explain the situation, and ask you to access the website for the latest information
- The Academy will display details about the closure on its website, stating if it has been possible to partially open for certain year groups
- 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:

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



**Executive Principal – Mr Andy Booth**  
**Associate Principal – Ms Catrin Green**

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