

17 March 2020

Dear parent/carers,

Re: Coronavirus update

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at Hope Valley College we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and Derbyshire County Council.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given.
- We have **postponed several events**, so that we can concentrate on our priority of delivering teaching and learning for our students. We hope to run these at a later date. These events are:
 - The school production 'High School Musical' week commencing 30th March.
 - Governors' Meeting Wednesday 18th March.
 - Y10 & Y11 Parents' Evening for Option C subjects only Thursday 19th March. (Instead staff will email parents of any students in Years 10 and 11 who they have concerns about).
 - Trinity Board Music Examinations.
- The following trips have been cancelled due to travel restrictions:
 - Arcachon (France) in June 2020.
- Students should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child or anyone in your household has any of the following symptoms, your child **should remain at home for 14 days**:
 - a new, continuous cough and/or
 - a temperature.
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by contacting us via telephone: **01433 620555** and email: enquiries@hopevalley.derbyshire.sch.uk

We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

What we're doing to protect and support students and staff

- As usual, if any student feels unwell whilst in school, they should go to Reception. If a student has a temperature and/or a continuous cough, they will contact parents to collect the student.

- We are monitoring the work of our site staff who maintain and clean our school, on a daily basis, to receive updates about their work.
- We are displaying reminder posters around school about handwashing and good hygiene.
- Staff are reminding students to wash their hands, at the end of lessons before break, lunch and the end of the day – and after all sport and cooking lessons and after using equipment. We also have staff on 'meet and greet' first thing in the morning, asking students to wash their hands.
- We have used form time to discuss hygiene with students and how to deal with anxiety.

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email: enquiries@hopevalley.derbyshire.sch.uk or telephone: **01433 620555**.
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. There are some specific resources for younger children at [BBC Newsround](#) and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety. We also have a list of resources to support students in all areas on our [Student Wellbeing webpage](#).
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)
- Check that both you and your child have access to our [ClassCharts app](#), and let us know if there are any issues (so we can make sure we're well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point).
- For those in Y11 and Y10, if you have bought access to GCSE Pod ensure you can logon to the app and everything is available to you – we will be using this if the school closes: <https://members.gcsepod.com/login>

What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we will:

- Send a message via email to all parents/carers who we have contact details for. We will also post the announcement on [our website](#), [our Facebook page](#) and [our Twitter page](#).
- We will use the same contact methods to tell you when the school will be reopened.
- Teachers will use ClassCharts to notify students about work. Please ensure you and your child check it at least twice a day.
- Teachers may also use email to keep in touch with students, so please ensure your child checks their inbox regularly.
- Where students have access to Office 365, we may also use Microsoft Teams, please check that you know how to access this system if you use Office 365
- Reminders about how to access our IT services and raise any IT issues will be published on our website and sent to students.

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently **no** plans to close.

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue via: enquiries@hopevalley.derbyshire.sch.uk
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Gaynor Jones
Principal of Hope Valley College