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Uttoxeter Learning Trust
Thomas Alleyne's High School
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16th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Letter regarding Coronavirus (Covid-19)

I wanted to write to assure you that the Trust is following the latest advice from Public Health England (PHE) and the Department for Education to ensure the health and wellbeing of our students, staff and the wider community which is, as always, our top priority.

We are of course being extra vigilant and encouraging students, parents and staff to continue taking additional precautions, including maintaining high levels of personal hygiene, regularly washing hands and following the *Catch it, Bin it, Kill it* advice when sneezing or coughing. As you would expect we already promote these practices at our schools and we would appreciate your support in continuing to encourage the same at home.

The Trust will continue to follow the latest government guidance and keep this under review. This includes ensuring our handwashing facilities are fully stocked throughout our schools and that advice posters are clearly displayed. Our cleaners will be concentrating on high-risk surfaces during their normal cleaning duties.

If any of our schools are required to close, we plan to continue lessons via remote learning and or hard copy resources as appropriate to the stage and age of the child/student. We understand that both parents and students will be concerned about upcoming examination periods. If necessary, we will prioritise work for exams groups as well as attendance at school if any reduction of provision is required in light of any challenges around staffing.

The government and Ofqual (the examination regulatory body) have published the following statement:

'We recognise that students, parents, schools and colleges will be concerned about the possible impact of coronavirus on the 2020 summer exam series. Our advice at this time is to continue to prepare for exams and other assessments as normal.'

'We continue to work closely with exam boards, other regulators and the Department for Education and we have met to plan for a range of scenarios, as the public would expect. Our overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum.'

'It is still many weeks until exams start and we will issue updated advice if necessary, giving schools and colleges as much notice as possible.'

As you may be aware the government announced last week that schools should not travel abroad until further notice. We have therefore been left with no option other than to cancel all schools trips out of the UK until the end of the academic year. We are in consultation with our insurers and the relevant travel companies and you will be contacted as soon as we have any further information regarding financial reimbursement.

There are currently no restrictions within the UK but we will be evaluating any trips, events and or fixtures for the safety of your children in our care and to support staffing in each of the schools. Our phone lines are likely to be busier than usual at the moment so please refrain from ringing our schools regarding school trips

at this time. The Headteachers of each school will contact you as soon as we have any further information to share.

We would also encourage you to closely monitor the health of your children and if they show any symptoms i.e. a new and persistent cough and/or high temperature, your child should be kept at home to self-isolate for seven days from when their symptoms started. You do not need to call NHS 111 to notify, but do if their symptoms worsen. For medical emergencies dial 999. Further advice and support can be located on the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

If a member of your family, living in the same household as the child(ren), is showing symptoms and following guidance has been forced to self-isolate, we appreciate you keeping your child at home for the period of self isolation. Any relating absence will be recorded as authorised due to the exceptional circumstances.

In either circumstance we would ask you to notify the school immediately, to allow us to take any necessary steps. As a Trust we take our duty of care extremely seriously and we will keep you updated on any further developments should the need arise.

Yours Sincerely



Dr Sarah Clark (CEO Uttoxeter Learning Trust)





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