



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

10<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Coronavirus updates and actions

Dear parent/guardian

As I have communicated via email several times to parents, we have been dealing closely with the challenges posed by the Coronavirus outbreak. If you haven't received these emails, can I please ask you to check with the school that we hold the correct email address for you, as this is likely to become an increasingly important mode of communication?

As you will be aware, a group returned from North Italy (not in the original lockdown zone) after half term and we followed closely the advice of Public Health England in asking people with mild cold/flu symptoms to self-isolate. This was done and they only returned to school once the required self-isolation period was over, or they had received a negative test from a hospital consultation.

I have also written to the parents of those students who were due to visit China in July as part of the MEP trip. I have withdrawn the school from this and those families will receive full refunds.

If you have any concerns over symptoms (whether your child has visited Italy or not), please communicate with us and self-refer through 111. If in doubt, ask.

We continue to follow advice from Public Health England and I spoke to the school in assembly on Monday about the hygiene messages that are being shared in the news on this (as below). We have put posters up around the school and made available more hand gels.

**How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?**

<p><b>If you need to cough or sneeze</b></p>  <p><b>Catch it</b> with a tissue</p>  <p><b>Bin it</b></p>  <p><b>Kill it</b> by washing your hands with soap &amp; water or hand sanitiser</p>			<p><b>You should wash hands with soap &amp; water or hand sanitiser</b></p>  <p><b>After breaks &amp; sport activities</b></p>  <p><b>Before cooking &amp; eating</b></p>  <p><b>SCHOOL ETC.</b> On arrival at any childcare or educational setting</p>  <p><b>After using the toilet</b></p>  <p><b>Before leaving home</b></p>					
 Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands		 Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles			 If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels			

I would ask you to remain calm and to follow the advice given by Public Health England. As I stated in my February email to parents (on 28<sup>th</sup> February), we have been told by the Public Health Department at Walsall Council that:

*“Public Health England and Department of Health have advised that schools do not need to close in relation to COVID 19 (even if there are associated possible cases currently undergoing testing). If a confirmed case is identified with links to a school, specific advice would be given on a case by case basis and parents and students would be updated appropriately”*

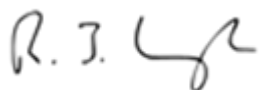
We continue to monitor the changing stance of the government and it may be that there is a directive to close schools at some point. Staff are currently liaising with classes on the plan of action if this occurs: mainly in terms of digital mediums to set and receive work. I asked the students in assembly on Monday to check that they can log into their school email accounts and they need to be proactive in making sure that they can access work, if we have to close.

As you can appreciate, this is an extremely difficult time and I can understand that people are concerned about the health and well-being of their children. This is my number one priority and I am managing this situation with this consideration at the centre of things.

If we do have to close, I will communicate this clearly via email, twitter and the school's website. Please make sure you check these regularly.

Thank you for your ongoing support at a difficult and uncertain time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Langton'.

Richard Langton  
Headteacher