

17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus Update – 17th March 2020

As you are aware, the Coronavirus pandemic is presenting some significant challenges nationwide and this is probably the most serious public health emergency that our Country has faced for a generation.

I can now provide you with details of our response to the latest government statement delivered by the Prime Minister on 16th March 2020. I have shaped this response under a number of key headings as detailed below.

Absence from School

It is now necessary to ask anyone displaying one or both of two key symptoms, or living in a household where someone else is displaying symptoms, to stay at home for 14 days. The most common symptoms of coronavirus are the recent onset of a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature (classified as 37.8C or higher).

Further information regarding this can be found in the Public Health England's document: Stay at home: guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection (updated 16 March 2020). We would like to draw your attention to the following points within the guidance:

- For anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period.
- For anyone who has been symptomatic, they may end their self-isolation after 7 days (the 7 day period starts from the first day of illness).
- If living with others, then all household members who remain well may end household-isolation after 14 days. The 14 day period starts from the day illness began in the first person to become ill.
- After 7 days, if the first person to become ill feels better and no longer has a high temperature, they can return to their normal routine.
- Should a household member develop coronavirus symptoms late in the 14 day isolation period (for example, on day 13 or 14) the isolation period does not need to be extended for the household, but the person with the new symptoms has to stay at home for 7 days.

Currently, there is no guidance to indicate that it is necessary to self-isolate should someone have come into contact with a person who is displaying potential coronavirus symptoms (with the exception of those living in the same household, as detailed above).

It would be helpful if Coronavirus: COVID-19 related-absences could be reported by email in the first instance to info@maltbymanoracademy.com stating clearly the reason for the absence, as this will help us to manage the high volume of calls we are currently experiencing.

Access to Educational Resources

During any period of absence due to self-isolation or the exhibiting of mild symptoms, I would advocate that the children continue to undertake learning to ensure that they are not getting too far behind with their learning. Staff will do their best to make work available for pupils and this will be clearly signposted via the Academy website under 'Useful



Maltby Manor Academy

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Tel: 01709 813300 Email: info@maltbymanoracademy.com Web: www.maltbymanoracademy.com

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Websites for Pupils'. Please note that the Academy has invested in a package of online learning resources to supplement pupils' learning. You will receive details of the 'Purple Mash' package in the next couple of days together with your child's login details;

School Events

In response to the Government's directive that everyone should stop non-essential contact with others and all unnecessary travel, we will be cancelling many of the forthcoming planned events, activities and meetings on the school calendar. I have listed below the key events affected over the coming weeks but will update this list as needed:

- Y4 Visit to London
- Family Bingo Night
- Y4 Opera Day
- All Easter activities
- Friday Celebration Assemblies
- Wednesday EYFS Stay and Play Assemblies

As with all the decisions we are making in response to the coronavirus outbreak, these measures are not ones which we are implementing lightly, however the health and wellbeing of all members of our school community will always be our priority. Given that the advice is now changing daily, we do not feel in a position to identify rearranged dates for these events at this present time but will continue to keep you updated.

We will review those events scheduled to take place after Easter in the coming days and will communicate our decision in relation to this at the earliest opportunity.

Visitors in School

From today we will be significantly reducing the number of external visitors we allow into our school building:

- Wherever possible and if appropriate, meetings will be conducted by telephone rather than face-to-face.
- We will not be meeting with anyone who does not have a pre-arranged appointment.
- Parents/carers will be asked to remain outside the school building when dropping off and collecting their children.
- All after-school sporting fixtures and practices will be postponed until further notice.
- All activities operated by external providers will be cancelled, this will include music lessons delivered through 'Rotherham Music Service' and PE/Sport delivered by 'Live and Learn'. We will communicate the implications of this decision in terms of lessons paid in advance, to those affected as soon as it is available.

This stance may compromise the level of service we strive to provide for visitors to the Academy however under the current circumstances we believe these measures are appropriate in managing the risk associated with the coronavirus outbreak.



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School Trips

In response to the Government's directive that everyone should stop all unnecessary travel, all trips and visits scheduled to take place between now and Easter are cancelled or postponed. We will update you further about upcoming Y6 residential to Peat Rigg in due course.

If appropriate, will write to those affected personally over the course of today and tomorrow to outline the specific implications for each visit and ask that you bear with us in the interim.

Other Information

Whilst the measures outlined above will have a significant impact upon our learning community, we respect the advice of those professionals who are working tirelessly to understand the impact of this new disease for society. We also recognise the bigger role we play in delaying the spread of the disease and protecting the most vulnerable members of our community. To that end we will continue to follow the advice set down by Public Health England, the Department for Education, the NHS and the Local Authority. Please note that at some point in the future we may be facing a partial or full school closure, however this will be determined by either the number of staff absent which means it is not feasible for us to continue to operate, or there is a directive for us to close. In the event of an enforced closure, we will communicate via local media stations, send you a message through our parent text service and put a message on social media and the website.

Whilst we do remain open, we will do our best to maintain routine for our children, delivering high quality lessons with a particular focus on protecting the education of those who have tests currently scheduled for this summer. However, we would ask for your understanding if, in the effort to remain open, we need to adjust the normal operations of the school.

This is a challenging time and we expect to be required to take unprecedented measures over the coming days and weeks. As always, we will continue to support each other and to pull together as a community.

I will continue to keep you updated and would ask that any questions are forwarded via email in the first instance to info@maltbymanoracademy.com.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

J Cliff

Mrs J Cliff
Principal



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