

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Ambitions Academies Trust

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Public Health England has issued new guidance on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020, in response to the current coronavirus pandemic. In addition to this guidance, the Prime Minister also gave the first of his daily briefings setting out further actions and considerations that we must all follow.

The Trust will follow this advice and the four key documents listed below to provide the best guidance to our pupils, parents and staff.

- COVID-19: guidance for educational settings
- COVID-19: stay at home guidance
- Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults
- COVID-19 guidance for mass gatherings

The latest guidance listed directly below is explicit for all in that should anyone be exhibiting the most common signs of coronavirus which are a **new and continuous cough and/or a high temperature, however mild you should:**

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for **7 days** from when your symptoms started.
- if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- 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.

The advice from Public Health England continues to be that should there be a suspected case of covid-19 within an educational setting, there is no need to close the school or send other learners or staff home. We continue to follow the advice provided with regard to the **cleaning of specific areas and disposing of waste.**

We are also with immediate effect:

- Your academy will inform you about any planned trips
- Cancelling all parents' evenings
- Staggering lunch breaks where ever possible
- Preventing external visitors to all academies from being on site

We are aware that some of our staff can be identified as 'vulnerable' under the updated government guidance and therefore we will be confirming with them on a case by case basis the level of risk that is posed to them and how we can mitigate against this. Consequently, this may impact upon the curriculum that we are able to provide to all pupils each day. Information from each of our academies will be issued with regard to this. We will do our utmost to manage this as smoothly as possible and in particular to ensure that children sitting examinations this academic year are the first priority.

Should you need to take your child out of school as a consequence of government guidance, this will be recorded as an **authorised absence**.

All academies continue to be cleaned daily and in line with Public Health England's advice.

We are also mindful of the need to support front line health NHS staff and other public sector workers. If you do meet this criteria, please do contact the academy. This is to ensure that if we have to partially close an academy, we can take into consideration the most effective and supportive way of doing this.

Thank you for your support and understanding at this very challenging time. We will continue to keep you updated as the situation develops.

Yours sincerely



**Sian Thomas**  
**CEO**  
**Ambitions Academies Trust**