

COVID-19 Letter to parents & Carers 17TH March 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

As you are probably aware the government has significantly changed its advice regarding managing the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). At this moment in time the government isn't instructing schools to close. As a trust we are aiming to maintain as normal a service as possible at this moment in time, but safeguarding pupils and staff is of paramount importance.

The difficulty for all schools is that some staff are not able to attend school because of their underlying health issues (as defined by the government) or because of their immediate family's health position. Already we can see that this is having a real impact on our school staffing levels.

As a trust and school we have been placed in a very difficult position. As public servants we naturally want to maintain our service to our learners. To do this we need staff to be at work to provide that service. Self-isolation on top of normal absence may make it very difficult to maintain a normal school service level.

What is important to emphasis to parents and carers is that any pupil or member of staff who is at a serious level of health risk due to underlying health conditions **MUST NOT** attend school. This also applies to those who present coronavirus symptoms – 14 day isolation rule.

The link regarding reasons for isolation is contained below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Due to the staffing position at NUSA we have decided to take the following actions:

- Pupils in the following year groups: **Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Post-16** are **not to attend** school until further notice
- For pupils who are at home, we will aim to maintain learning by setting work via the school's website or Microsoft 'Team' facilities. You will receive more details on this in a separate letter. Please be patient with us in this time of adversity. We are doing everything we can to support your child in this tricky time.

The loss of school meals are a major area of concern to many families. If the school is required to fully close, we will work with our catering suppliers to provide some service. At this point in time however, we cannot guarantee this service to families.

These are uncertain times. We are all running to catch up with events and ensure our planning is equal to the challenge.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and consideration in response to this unique situation. Your support is valued and we will maintain a high level of contact with you as this situation unfolds.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Howard', written in a cursive style.

Emma Howard
Head of School