



13 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to write to assure you that the academy your child attends – and indeed all schools within Thinking Schools Academy Trust – is continuing to follow the latest advice from the Government and Public Health England (PHE) to help ensure the health and wellbeing of our whole school community. This is, as always, our top priority.

We currently have no specific concerns about anyone within our school community in relation to Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the academy remains open as usual, as advised by the Government and confirmed as the guidance again yesterday afternoon by the Prime Minister.

All school closure decisions will ultimately be taken by the CEO but we will co-ordinate this decision with the school and local authority, and will of course again follow Government and PHE advice and guidance.

In preparation for full or partial closures, I would like to provide you with a summary on what we will do to enable pupils to access learning materials. Teachers are preparing work that will be uploaded to Show my Homework if needed. We will be reissuing logins for those who need them, and students will also be able to access the online programs Maths Watch, Educake and Seneca Learning.

Staff are currently working on providing additional resources in the event of school closure, and we will provide further details on accessing these in due course. Should your child not have access to the internet or a laptop or mobile device, please contact the Academy or email office@victoryacademy.org.uk and we will endeavour to support your child.

You may also be aware that the Government has issued updated guidance in other areas, which we are taking heed of and following. Now, should your child exhibit even mild signs of Covid-19, which has been defined as a new, continuous cough or high temperature, you should ensure they self-isolate for a period of 7 days. Our staff have been advised that they must do the same. Based on the new advice, while our schools remain open, we are going to defer all school trips. This means that the following events are currently postponed:

Tuesday 17th March: KS3 Reward Trip to Charlton Football Club
Wednesday 18th, 25th March, 1st April : Year 7 MMYC trips to Fort Amherst
Thursday 19th March: Year 8 Parents Evening
Wednesday 25th March: Year 7 Trip to Fort Amherst
Thursday 27th March: Sixth form UCAS convention



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For parents of Year 8 students, should you have any immediate concerns or queries about your son/daughter's progress please do contact us and we will ensure these are directed to the appropriate staff.

We should all of course be extra vigilant and responsible, and we are encouraging the whole school community to continue to take the additional precautions that has been the case for several days now, 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 within school and we would appreciate your support in continuing to encourage the same at home.

Anyone returning from the identified countries of concern and experiencing specific health concerns, related symptoms or with general medical enquiries should contact 111 and not visit their local GP Surgery or A&E.

The latest Government advice, which is constantly being updated is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public> that includes steps that can be taken to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including Coronavirus, and as a school we are following these closely.

As a school, we take our duty of care extremely seriously and we will keep you updated on any further developments should the need arise. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms M Gage
Director of Education (Chatham)



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