



March 2020

Dear Family

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

I know there is some concern amongst our school communities regarding Coronavirus and I write to reassure you of our actions. As always, some areas of the media are not helping with the way in which information is being shared. We are receiving daily advice from the government's Public Health Team (PHE) and the Department for Education and we are keeping on top of the current situation nationally.

As a Trust, our schools are ensuring that all precautions are in place.

To reassure you further, we have assessed the risks and taken the following steps:

- We are taking all necessary steps to minimise risk as much as possible, as we would do to stop the spread of any virus.
- Staff have been instructed to ensure that children are washing their hands regularly.
- Extra soap and sanitizers have been provided in all our schools.
- Information on the virus and general good hygiene steps for parents has been published in school newsletters and on our academy websites.

To date, there have been no reports of any child or staff member in our schools having either contracted or being in any immediate risk of infection.

We would also like to clarify that, based on the information we are receiving from Public Health England (PHE), **there is absolutely no reason for any families to self-isolate unless on the advice of a health professional or based on national medical advice.** Should any families consider self-isolation then we would need to report this to PHE.

We still expect children to attend school and should they not attend, proof of the required information will be needed. If this is not given children will be marked as having an unauthorised absence.

Public Health England and the Department for Education have been very clear that at this point in time they do not expect schools to close and that they are very clear that all pupils should attend school as this enables us to support your children in this challenging time.

If you are concerned at all, do please speak to the Academy on 01384 816225 or via info@thorns-s.dudley.sch.uk.

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THORNS

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Working together, we can deal with this issue and I would like to thank all parents for their support in ensuring good hand washing and hygiene at home.

Yours sincerely

Sir Mark Grundy
CEO
Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust

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