



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

13th March 2020

Coronavirus COVID-19 concerns

Dear Parent/Carer

With the growing concern regarding the global spread of Coronavirus, I wanted to keep parents and carers up-to-date about the position of Tanfield School. As always, the wellbeing, health and safety of our students and staff is paramount. As the current situation is very fluid, we are continually monitoring the updates, advice and guidance issued from the government and Public Health England.

Therefore, at this moment in time **there is currently no cause for concern at the school**, but we will keep you informed about any developments and reassure you that we are keeping the school clean to minimise and prevent the risk of any virus spreading, including the Coronavirus. Alongside monitoring the school population, other measures include regular deep cleaning with antibacterial products and encouraging students to wash their hands regularly.

Yesterday the UK moved to the delay phase of the government action plan. At this point in time we have not been given any information to confirm if or when schools will close. Therefore, it seems sensible to prepare and keep you informed of our plans should we be forced to close. Teaching staff have been preparing work, website suggestions and other activities to encourage students to continue with their learning if they are unable to attend school.

In the event of a forced closure we will be setting the vast majority of work online to ensure minimum disruption to learning. Tanfield School uses Google Classroom, an online learning platform, and all of our students have a school e-mail address which they can access from home. Staff use Google Classroom to set work, which can also be marked live.

We will also be using a facility in the Google suite called "Google Hangout Meets". This is an online video conferencing facility, where students can access lessons from home. We have developed an instructional video on how to use this facility and are in the process of sharing this with students.

Although we have surveyed our students regarding access to the internet or devices at home, it would be useful that if parents/carers see any potential issue with this, they inform us as soon as possible. We would then be able to consider alternative methods of providing work for our students.

TANFIELD SCHOOL

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In the meantime I would like to remind everyone of the guidance issued from Public Health England:

Preventing spread of infection

There are general principles anyone can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport.
- covering your cough with a sleeve/tissue and a sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin. See [Catch it, Bin it, Kill it](#)
- people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting.
- pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
 - before leaving home
 - on arrival at school
 - after using the toilet
 - after breaks and sporting activities
 - before food preparation
 - before eating any food, including snacks
 - before leaving school
- use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- if you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment
- see further information on the [Public Health England Blog](#) and the [NHS UK website](#).

If you or any of your family become unwell, please call NHS 111 immediately in order for you to be assessed by an appropriate specialist in hospital, as quickly as possible.

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath

But these symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness.

The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu.

Follow the home isolation advice sheet

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home
- Call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the area

If it's an emergency, call 999 and tell them which country you have returned from in the past 14 days.

Further information

- [NHS: answers to common questions about coronavirus](#)
- [GOV.UK information on coronavirus and the situation in the UK](#)
- [GOV.UK foreign travel advice](#)
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866771/Coronavirus_advice_for_education_settings_poster.pdf

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's year manager in school.

Yours sincerely

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

Mr S Clough
Head Teacher