



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

Coronavirus (COVID-19): 12 March 2020

Dear Parents

You may be aware, following national media reports, that the Government is intending to move from the 'containment' to 'delay'; the second phase in its response to COVID-19 pandemic.

At the moment schools have not been asked to close. However, if we were, we would inform you by email together with our plans in order to maximise opportunities for learning during this time. As always, the health and safety of our pupils together with their well-being will be our top priority. We will continue to follow the statutory advice and guidance from the Department for Education, Public Health England and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

At the moment, there have been no cases of COVID-19 at STRS. Understandably, there has been some nervousness from pupils and staff when experiencing respiratory symptoms similar to those reportedly associated with Covid19. Indeed, it would be highly unusual for a few members of our school community not to have coughs, sore throats and some fever at this time of the year. Nevertheless, we are advising any student or member of staff who has these symptoms to self-isolate and seek advice from NHS111. We are aware that it is frustrating for people who have not been in direct contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or returned from high-alert countries to be refused testing by the NHS and that individuals are making the decision to self-isolate in order to protect others, particularly the vulnerable, from the wider spread of infection.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not currently advising against travel to countries or territories other than Italy, China and South Korea where we have no trips planned but we will keep a very close eye on this guidance.

We will update parents if the advice and guidance were to change. However, we can assure you that we will do all we can in order to secure the least disruption to learning, utilising remote access to all platforms available to us.

Clearly, social distancing is an important aspect of the Government's planned response to the situation and therefore, where possible, we are discouraging pupils and staff from attending large public events particularly where people congregate in confined spaces in order to help the Government meet its aims and protect members of the school community.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Morgan

HEADMASTER

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