

13 March 2020

Dear Parents

Covid-19 Update

This email follows and confirms the [guidance given by the government yesterday](#) that schools should remain open. We will be reassuring pupils over the coming days that they themselves are at minimal risk of being harmed by Covid-19 while giving every encouragement to take sensible precautions for the benefit of the wider community.

Overseas school trips in the Easter holiday

Yesterday's [government guidance to cancel all overseas education trips for children under 18](#), will affect all our planned school trips this Easter holiday including the College's planned forthcoming trips to Iceland, Germany and Austria. Regrettably, then, we ask parents to make travel arrangements which facilitate children to remain at / go home as we will shortly confirm with the relevant families the cancellation of these trips. It is too early to confirm the situation for any trips planned further in the future. We will do our best to negotiate with insurers so parents stand the best possible chance of receiving money back.

Presenting with symptoms

Following the guidance from yesterday, we ask all pupils and staff to stay at home for seven days if they have either:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough

The guidance states that 'you do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you're staying at home. [The NHS] We will not be testing people who are self-isolating with mild symptoms.' Instead, if the symptoms worsen or continue after seven days people are asked then to use 111 online and if necessary contact their doctor by telephone for advice. [[COVID-19: stay at home guidance](#)]

To confirm for our setting, please do not bring your child into school if they have any symptoms or you know of any risk or contact they may have had with anyone with symptoms. Please contact the medical centre in every case of concern **before** returning to school.

- Eastbourne College: medical@eastbourne-college.co.uk
- St Andrew's Prep: medical@standrewsprep.co.uk

Boarders, or pupils who first present with a high temperature or a new continuous cough during the school day, should go straight home/to guardian if possible and until then remain in their room or a safe place (asking room-mates to vacate the space) while we contact the medical centre by phone or email for advice.

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Fixtures and normal school activities

The Department for Education is not currently advising against domestic trips (residential and non-residential) for children under 18 organised by education settings, so school fixtures should continue if other schools do not cancel precipitously. We will continue to risk assess what we do and remind pupils, staff and visitors to wash their hands:

- before leaving home
- on arrival at school
- after using the lavatory
- after breaks and sporting activities
- before food preparation
- before eating any food, including snacks
- before leaving school

At the College the headmaster, school doctor and school nurse will address pupils on Monday to provide reassurance and answer questions as was requested by the pupils' school council. Staff at St Andrew's will continue to provide reassurance and support to pupils in an age-appropriate way.

Travel home for the holidays

The travel advice relevant to the school holiday remains as explained in our last letter.

We will continue to update and reassure pupils that this situation will pass and they are resilient in both body and mind in the face of these troubling times.

Sincerely yours

Tom NM Lawson
Headmaster, Eastbourne College

Gareth EB Jones
Headmaster, St Andrew's Prep