



from Tom Lawson MA (Oxon), Headmaster

6 February 2020

Dear Parents

Coronavirus Update

Thank you for your understanding regarding the measures we have taken to minimise risk of coronavirus infection within our wider community of pupils, staff, families and friends.

As you would expect, we are forecasting and planning contingencies for what lies ahead.

In spite of efforts made to reduce infection rates and minimise mortality, the global and regional (China-Hong Kong) effects of this virus are likely to get worse before they get better. With this in mind and in the context of ongoing FCO travel advice, we suggest that parents who live in China and Hong Kong begin to think about making contingencies for the Easter holiday which will soon be upon us, only four weeks after the forthcoming February half term. Essentially such planning should involve how parents might best see their children being mindful of the guidance regarding self-imposed quarantine for fourteen days for anyone who could potentially have been exposed and the latest advice regarding travel restrictions. Parents should consider whether coming over to the UK is preferable to having their daughter / son stay back home, which is then likely to require a 14-day period of self-imposed quarantine before the pupil returns to school.

We are monitoring the situation carefully and will issue more definitive guidance in due course, aiming to get in touch just before or after half term when we have more information. For the time being, we wanted to raise awareness of this prospect.

While writing, we quote current FCO advice relevant to our whole extended community: 'In light of the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises against "all but essential" travel to mainland China, and now recommends that British nationals who are able to leave China do so.'

The College medical centre will be stressing the importance of regular hand-washing by the pupils and staff, reminding us that we are also in the flu season and should all take appropriate precautions.

With best wishes

Tom NM Lawson Gareth EB Jones
Headmaster, Eastbourne College Headmaster, St Andrew's Prep

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-and-travel-to-china-foreign-secretarys-statement-4-february-2020>