



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

15 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I write to thank you for the calm and supportive nature in which you have reinforced Hampstead School's proactive precautions to ensure the safety of our community with regards Coronavirus Covid-19.

I further write to inform and reassure you about the school's ongoing precautions and planning.

We are open and expect all students to attend school as normal unless they have presenting symptoms. These are a new persistent cough or high temperature in which case they should self-isolate for a full seven days. We therefore ask you to keep your children at home if, but only if, they have these symptoms.

In terms of advice for parents, please use the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

We continue to adopt a precautionary approach whilst still maintaining our business as usual, as far as possible. There are members of our school community who are following the government's guidelines and are self-isolating. Public Health (England) currently advise that even if there is a confirmed case within the school community, closure of the school is unnecessary.

As previously communicated, we have continued to reinforce with students the importance of handwashing and ways to minimise risk of infection. We will continue to reassure them regarding any personal concerns they have about Coronavirus Covid-19, including what we know about age-related impact. We have measures in place to ensure that all visitors to our school site, school contractors or general visitors, meet our protocols for keeping our community safe. We continue to both monitor soap dispensers and sanitise door handles and bannisters four times daily.

Faculty leaders are overseeing the process of uploading work onto virtual platforms so that students can access work from home **in the event** of a school closure.

The primary vehicle for this will be *RM Unify / Show My Homework*, supplemented by our other subscriptions to *Seneca Learning* and *SAM Learning*. Please check with your child as soon as possible that they know how to access these from home.



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It is important that we all do our best to minimise disruption to students' education in this unprecedented scenario.

I understand the concerns that you will have if your child is due to take public examinations. I currently do not have any concrete information about this summer's examination series, with the examination regulator Ofqual's latest advice being "*to continue to prepare for exams and other assessments as normal*".

Meanwhile, following advice, all overseas trips will now not be going ahead. Parents/carers will be contacted separately about these arrangements.

We are currently reviewing domestic trips on a case-by-case basis and will update those affected as soon as possible.

We appreciate your support in this evolving situation; we are keenly aware of the difficulties many families face and understand that many of you will have relatives and friends in affected areas. Schools, as close communities, are particularly vulnerable and it is important that we do everything possible to safeguard everyone in our care.

I shall continue to update you by e-mail, text and links to the Hampstead School website. Please ensure without fail that we have up-to-date contact details to update you, but more importantly to ensure that if we have health concerns about your child we can contact you quickly

Finally, please can I ask that you do not contact the school with general enquiries about the school's response to Coronavirus Covid-19.

We are monitoring the situation very closely, whilst running the school. We act on guidance from Camden, the Department for Education and Public Health (England), and I will continue to update you on our response

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Jacques Szemalikowski
Head



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