



To All Parents

Monday 9 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Update on Coronavirus

I am writing to provide information with regards the coronavirus infection.

Government guidance to schools and the situation at Christ's College

The College receives daily updates from the Department for Health and Social Care, Public Health England, and the Department for Education. This guidance is published at the links below:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- dfc.information@notifications.service.gov.uk

There are **no confirmed cases** of coronavirus from any students or staff at Christ's College. If a student begins to develop the symptoms of coronavirus (fever, cough, difficulties in breathing), parents should use the NHS 111 service to seek medical advice. In the event of a confirmed case, the NHS and Public Health England will advise parents on the course of action to take, and where necessary, will contact the College to advise us on the actions that should be taken in school.

The Department for Education has launched a helpline for young people, parents and staff to raise questions about the coronavirus outbreak:

- Telephone: 0800 046 8687 (8am-6pm)
- Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

The College's Senior Leadership Team is reviewing the government's guidance daily, and will take all necessary action to protect the students and staff of the College, taking advice from Public Health England, the National Health Service, and the Departments for Health and Social Care and Education.

Public Examinations (Monday 11 May – Wednesday 24 June 2020)

Ofqual are working with the Joint Council for Qualifications and examination boards to ensure that preparations are in place for the management of the public examinations this summer. At this stage, all Year 6 and Year 11 students should continue their preparations as normal for these important examinations. The College will continue to communicate with students and parents as and when information is received from the relevant public bodies. Please note the contingency date **24th June** where all students must be available should an examination have to be rescheduled for this date.

Trips and visits

All trips and visits scheduled in the coming months will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, seeking relevant advice where necessary. Further information will be shared with parents of students participating in planned trips in due course. At the moment, it remains our intention to run these trips, but we will keep this under continual review, based

David Dawes BA (Hons), MA, MEng Executive Principal

Julie Roberts BDiv (Hons), MEd Principal

Christ's College, Pennywell Road, Sunderland, SR4 8PG Tel: 0191 534 4444 Fax: 0191 534 4111

Email: enquiries@christscollege.org.uk www.christscollege.org.uk

Registered Office: Trinity House, Bede College, Sixth Form, Sixth Avenue, Blyth, Northumberland NE24 2SY Company Registration Number No. 4464331

on any updated advice from the Department for Health and Social Care.

Communication with parents

The College will continue to keep parents and carers informed through the College website, text messages and through written communications, acting on the advice of the relevant public bodies. To do this, it is vital that we have accurate and up-to-date contact details for all parents. I am therefore enclosing a blank copy of the Student Data Form for your child. If there are any changes that are required, please make these directly on the form and return the form to your child's tutor by Wednesday 11 March.

Communication with students

All students have been spoken to regarding good hand hygiene (hand washing techniques) and the NHS 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It' advice. The National Institute for Clinical Excellence has recommended the use of e-Bug to teach students about hygiene.

- <https://e-bug.eu/>

Information is displayed around the College to remind students of this. Hand sanitisers are already installed around the school. Tissues are also available in every classroom.

The message of the College to students has been one of reassurance, and we trust that parents will support this message. As adults, we are able to recognise that some information shared on social media is inaccurate but young people may struggle to interpret some of these messages correctly. The BBC News website has published a helpful guide for parents speaking to young people about the current situation:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51734855>

College closure

We will provide further details regarding school closure should this happen. However, the College will provide work for you child to work on should the College be closed. Work will be available on FREE FLOW for students in the primary years and on SHOW MY HOMEWORK for students in the secondary years. Should you have any difficulties accessing either of these then please do contact the College for further details. How to access both of these resources will be available on the College Website from Tuesday 10 March 2020.

If you have any further queries regarding this situation, please contact your child's class teacher/ form tutor or email the College directly at enquiries@christscollege.org and your email will be forwarded to an appropriate member of staff.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Roberts
Principal

