

## Bishop Wordsworth's School

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13 March 2020

## Dear Parents/Guardians

We have had a number of phone calls and emails about the current Covid-19 epidemic, so I would like to confirm our response to the situation as below.

We continue to follow the daily guidance updates from the Department for Education, including taking the following measures:

- Soap and hot water are available in all buildings. Students are encouraged to wash their hands more regularly than usual and posters have been placed at strategic points to remind them.
- Thumbprint registration for Sixth Form has been suspended, and students can now register in their lessons or if they don't have a lesson first thing or straight after lunch, they can register in the Sixth Form Office.
- Hand sanitizer is limited in availability so we strongly encourage students to bring their own if required (although that soap and hot water is considered a better preventative by the Government at this time).
- Students have been made aware of advice about how to stop the spread of the virus by watching this short film <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51741001">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51741001</a>
- Students have been advised to inform the school of any travel outside the UK or any worries they have about coming in to contact with potential carriers of the virus. In all cases we will help the student find the most recent government advice and act upon that.

If your son shows symptoms of coronavirus infection however mild (new continuous cough and/or high temperature) please follow the Government guidelines and self-isolate. Please contact school in the usual way to report your son's absence and leave details that he is self-isolating so that his absence can be recorded correctly. Once you have reported his absence there is no need to ring school every day. Please continue to follow the usual procedures for reporting absence for all other situations.

DfE and HPE Guidance is being updated on a daily basis as the circumstances change. It is, of course, quite possible that school closures may come into force in the future. We will therefore be advising boys to plan for this (just in case) by ensuring that they have as much of their learning materials (eg textbooks and exercise books) at home rather than in their locker at school. Should closure become a reality then appropriate and manageable work will be set on Insight where this is physically possible.

More guidance and information can be found here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public</a>

Yours sincerely

S D Smallwood Head Master