



Penistone Grammar School

Never Stop Flying

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Achieving Excellence through a Values Driven Education

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Dear Parent and Carer

Coronavirus: Covid-19 Latest Update

Further to yesterday's correspondence, I now write to provide you with further details of our response to the statement delivered by the Prime Minister on 16 March ([PM statement on coronavirus: 16 March 2020](#)).

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Absence from School

As outlined in my letter yesterday, it is now necessary to ask anyone displaying one or both of two key symptoms, **or** living in a household where someone else is displaying symptoms, to stay at home for 14 days. The most common symptoms of coronavirus are the recent onset of a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature (classified as 37.8C or higher).

Further information regarding this can be found in the Public Health England's document: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) (updated 16 March 2020). We would like to draw your attention to the following points within the guidance:

- For anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.
- For anyone who has been symptomatic, they may end their self-isolation after 7 days (the 7-day period starts from the first day of illness).
- If living with others, then all household members who remain well may end household-isolation after 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day illness began in the first person to become ill.
- After 7 days, if the first person to become ill feels better and no longer has a high temperature, they can return to their normal routine.
- Should a household member develop coronavirus symptoms late in the 14-day isolation period (for example; on day 13 or 14) the isolation period does not need to be extended for the household, but the person with the new symptoms has to stay at home for 7 days.



The Quality in Careers Standard >>>>

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Be Brave

Be Supportive

Be Proud

Currently, there is no guidance to indicate that it is necessary to self-isolate should someone have come into contact with a person who is displaying potential coronavirus symptoms (with the exception of those living in the same household, as detailed above).

As I outlined yesterday, it would be helpful if COVID-19 related-absences could be reported by email in the first instance to attendance@penistone-gs.uk, stating clearly the reason for the absence, as this will help us to manage the high volume of calls we are currently experiencing.

For the sake of completeness, whilst staff will do their best to set work for students, even with best endeavours, this will not always be possible. We would therefore refer students to Frog (our virtual learning environment) where there are many resources available to supplement students' learning. This particularly applies to students in years 10 and 11 who should direct themselves to the English and Science sites, and to Hegarty Maths. Students in years 12 and 13 who are absent due to self-isolation should use the time for self-study and revision.

School Events

In response to the Government's directive that everyone should "stop non-essential contact with others" and "stop all unnecessary travel" ([PM statement on coronavirus: 16 March 2020](#)) we will be making the following changes to our school calendar:

17 March 2020	Year 6 Welcome Meeting	Postponed
19 March 2020	Year 6 Welcome Meeting	Postponed
24 March 2020	Year 6 Welcome Meeting	Postponed
26 March 2020	Year 10 Parents' & Students Evening	Postponed
31 March 2020	School Show: We Will Rock You	Postponed
01 April 2020	School Show: We Will Rock You	Postponed
02 April 2020	School Show: We Will Rock You	Postponed

As with all decisions we are making in response to the coronavirus outbreak, these measures are not ones which we are implementing lightly however; the health and wellbeing of all members of our school community will always be our priority. Given that the advice is now changing daily, we do not feel in a position to identify rearranged dates for these events at this present time but will continue to keep you updated.

We will review those events scheduled to take place after Easter in the coming days and will communicate our decision in relation to this at the earliest opportunity.

Visitors in School

From today we will be significantly reducing the number of external visitors we allow into our school building:

- Wherever feasibly possible and if appropriate, meetings will be conducted by telephone or video link (for example, Skype) rather than face-to-face.
- Parents and carers will be asked to wait in the area between the glass doors when collecting students.
- We will not be meeting with anyone who does not have a pre-arranged appointment.
- All activities operated by external providers will be cancelled, this will include music lessons delivered through Barnsley Music Service and we will communicate the implications of this decision in terms of lessons paid in advance, to those affected as soon as it is available.

This will obviously compromise the personal level of service we strive to achieve when visiting PGS however; under the current circumstances we believe these measures are appropriate in managing the risk associated with the coronavirus outbreak.

School Trips

In response to the Government's directive that everyone should "stop all unnecessary travel" ([PM statement on coronavirus: 16 March 2020](#)) all visits scheduled to take place between now and May half-term are cancelled or postponed, with the following exceptions:



Year 9 Paris Trip We are currently in communication with the tour operator in terms of the refunding of monies for this visit therefore we have delayed our decision in relation to this until further information is available.

Post-16 Paris Trip Similarly, we are currently in discussion with the tour operator and as a result, the decision regarding this visit will be delayed until 28 March when the second payment is due to be made. Should the advice change before then we will expedite the decision.

We are seeking further clarification regarding the World Challenge Preparation Weekend currently scheduled for the first weekend of the Easter holidays. Although facilitated by the school, this is operated by World Challenge and we await details of their risk control measures before we can advise further.

We will write to those affected personally over the course of today and tomorrow to outline the specific implications for each visit and ask that you bear with us in the interim.

Other Adjustments

Whilst the measures outlined above will have a significant impact upon our learning community, we respect the advice of those professionals who are working tirelessly to understand the impact of this new disease for society. We also recognise the bigger role we play in delaying the spread of the disease and protecting the most vulnerable members of our community. To that end we will continue to follow the advice set down by recognised authorities, including Public Health England, the Department for Education, the NHS, Barnsley Public Health and Barnsley Local Authority, until either the number of staff absent mean it is not feasible for us to continue to operate, or there is a directive for us to close.

Whilst we do remain open, we will do our best to maintain routine for our students, delivering high quality lessons with a particular focus on protecting the education of those in years 11 and 13 who have examinations currently scheduled for this summer. However; we would ask for your understanding if, in the effort to remain open, we need to adjust the normal operations of the school.

To this end, the following points are worthy of note:

- Year 7 and year 8 should bring their PE kit with them every day in case we need to collapse classes.
- We will communicate any changes to student timetables daily via mentor time and assemblies.
- To maintain routine, after school enrichment will continue except for that run by external providers, which will be cancelled until further notice. This includes the Year 6 Penistone4Sport activities, Barnsley Youth Choir (BYC) rehearsals and rugby practice.
- Sporting fixtures, both internal and external, will be postponed until further notice.
- The school building will close at 18:00 each evening.
- We have closed our Community Use (Sports Centre) facilities until further notice.
- The school building will be closed completely to students, staff and visitors, over the Easter holiday period.

This is a challenging time and we expect to be required to take unprecedented measures over the coming days and weeks. As always, we will continue to support each other and to pull together as a community.

I will continue to keep you updated and would ask that any questions are forward via email in the first instance to enquiries@penistone-gs.uk.

Yours sincerely



Paul Crook
Principal

