

Friday 13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Coronavirus Update for Schools (6)

I would like to thank you for the calm and measured approach our community has taken in response to these uncertain times.

Although the government has announced that it has escalated it's action plan to the 'delay' phase, I can reassure you that current guidance remains that schools are to remain open unless directed by Public Health England and we should continue to follow the repeated hygiene guidance published.

In particular, to reduce the risk of the coronavirus spreading we are reminding everyone to:

1. Wash your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and hot water, particularly after coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose, or after being in public areas where other people are doing so. Use hand sanitiser if that's all you have access to.
2. To reduce the spread of germs when you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or your sleeve (not your hands) if you don't have a tissue, and throw the tissue away immediately. Then wash your hands or use a hand sanitising gel.

As part of the 'delay' phase, the government has said today that anyone with a "new, continuous" cough or high temperature is advised to self-isolate for seven days.

Despite a high call volume, the Department for Education coronavirus helpline remains available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

The government have also issued their action plan to manage their response to the coronavirus which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

Oak Academy

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I am aware that the AFCB youth academy published a message to its community as a response to an individual student having come into contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19. This message has been shared on social media and has naturally caused some alarm among our students.

I have contacted AFCB for clarification and have been told that the student concerned has not been at Oak and 'isolation' is a change in day release education and training sessions to remove contact, but that as a precautionary measure a small number of students within the group have also been directed to self-isolate.

For Oak students, the risk of transmission is very low. Education for the AFCB Academy continues as normal – just like Oak – and our best wishes go out to them at this challenging time.

We understand that this continues to be an anxious time for everyone, but please be reassured that we continue to follow all of the latest government guidance.

If this advice changes, or our local situation changes, I will write again to you with immediate effect.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burgas', written in a cursive style.

Richard Burgas
Principal
Oak Academy