



Noadswood

Fit for learning, fit for life



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Dear Parents and Carers,

The senior leadership team have again met tonight to look at the continued running of the school in particularly challenging times. Our aim, throughout the challenges presented, is to look to support students, staff and our local community as best we can. We have talked at length once again about contingency planning and steps to mitigate risks whilst allowing for the core purposes of support and education to continue.

We would like to pass our thanks to all the students, parents, carers and staff who have helped support us in following all the advice and precautions we have previously shared.

There has been such a sense of team, and it has been brilliant that you have used:

health@noadswood.hants.sch.uk for your reports of concerns about your children's health or that of yourself/a family member/a contact or with questions about our response to specific aspects of the current situation.

If we all continue to communicate via this email address, we will ensure we respond to all concerns in a timely way and nothing will get overlooked or delayed. So now, as an update, the latest advice is now (UK press conference 16/03/2020):

- Please can we request that should **any member of your family, or of our school community** - young people and adults alike - show or have any symptoms of the virus, eg temperature, fever, persistent cough, or have cold or flu like symptoms, then your child should not come into school tomorrow, and **neither should you** as a visitor or colleague. Please notify the school this evening or tomorrow morning at health@noadswood.hants.sch.uk and we will be in touch with further advice which will follow the UK guidance of **14 days self-isolation**
- Additionally, **if you or your child have been in direct contact with someone who has been tested OR who has the symptoms above OR who doctors believe may have the virus, please may we request that your child does not come to school and that you do not attend as a visitor or a colleague.**

Again, let us know at health@noadswood.hants.sch.uk and we will contact you with further advice as above.

We know that nationally not everyone presenting symptoms is now being tested, hence this specific advice. These are tough and concerning times for everyone, and so we ask for your support in these ways to keep everyone in our community safe and well. Should any advice change, we will inform you via ePraise and social media as previously done.

Additionally, we now have some specific information to share regarding some of the strategies we are putting into place surrounding **learning from home**; **staff number reduction** resulting in potential closure for given year groups; **after-school** activities; **trips and events**; **lettings** for the school; **self-isolation and attendance coding**; how to **contact the school**; and **support for any of our students** who are anxious or worried about the current situation.

Learning from Home: Noadswood FROG contingency portal

Today the FROG portal has gone live for students who are self-isolating and in the event of a school closure. It is accessed from the student and parental FROG landing page



School Continuity Portal

The website contains work and links to resources to support student learning for every subject and is hopefully very simple and intuitive to navigate for every year group. Class teachers and Team Leaders will be giving as much direction as possible with instructions for what work should be completed, and this will be updated weekly. We would also be encouraging the use of a variety of other online resources, including [BBC Bitesize](#), [SENECA learning](#), [Brainscape](#) [Revision Monkey](#) [YouTube](#), [Kerboodle](#) and [Fast Past Papers](#) amongst others.

Staff number reduction owing to self-isolation cases

It is important to realise that Noadswood, like all schools, needs to consider the very real possibility of a **partial closure soon or even full closure** in advance of any new national guidance if we have staff absence that places us at risk of not having safe supervision levels for students.

This would likely mean that we reduce the number of year groups present on a given day in the school in the first instance. We would be mindful of Year 11 and Year 10 with upcoming exams and coursework, as well as Year 7 being our youngest students. This, along with frontline services' families and the support we can offer them is something we are looking at closely when planning contingencies.

After-school activities

The decision has been taken that all morning and after-school clubs and events are to be cancelled with immediate effect. This is to allow us to direct resources to our core principles of teaching and learning. The only exceptions to this are OASIS after-school club, revision sessions and catch-up sessions which will continue to run whilst staffing levels permit this, allowing for a continuity of education.


Trips and events

Unfortunately, we have also taken a very difficult decision, with a very heavy heart, to cancel all trips and events until the end of the academic year in the first instance. For each specific trip or event that a student has opted into, there will be a specific message about the details of the cancellation which will be sent via ePraise.

This decision goes back to the point about needing to put all resources now to protecting core purpose: education and support for students and staff in school.

Lettings

Our thanks to the community for their understanding that all lettings ceased until further notice from Friday. As with the message in all of the above, this is to focus our resources on our core principles of support for our students and staff by being able to deploy our site team in a more focused way throughout the school day.



Self-isolation and attendance coding

Some parents have asked what happens to a students' attendance figures if they self-isolate. To reassure, the code is a national 'Y' code meaning the student is unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances and this does not and will not impact their attendance figure.

As mentioned on the first page, the advice is for **anyone with symptoms** or **anyone in the same house as someone with symptoms** to **self-isolate for 14 days**. This information, from Professor Whitty, is because "people need to think through the practicalities. It is stopping the virus from being transmitted to the rest of the community."


Contacting the school

The school admin team are particularly stretched at this time, as you can imagine, and this will mean our receptionists are following different working practices from normal. If you call the school by telephone it will go to our automated system with the option of leaving a message, which we will respond to as soon as possible.

Due to staffing numbers and this afternoon's Government advice, **please do not attend reception for a non-essential reason**. If you have any concerns regarding the virus or want to inform us of symptoms in your son/daughter or any family member in the same household please can we once again encourage you to contact us at health@noadswood.hants.sch.uk and not to visit us in person.

For other attendance reporting, it's attendance@noadswood.hants.sch.uk

For all other enquiries, it's info@noadswood.hants.sch.uk or headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk depending on the nature of your enquiry. You can, of course, also use other colleagues' email addresses that you already have for specific enquiries.



Student welfare and wellbeing

It is of paramount importance for us to consider student welfare and impact this has on them through every decision we make. It is really important that our students know that if they have any concerns whatsoever that there is an adult at Noadswood they can talk to. This could be their tutor, their House Leader, one of our ELSAs or any member of staff who they feel comfortable in speaking to. We really would encourage them to seek this adult out should they want reassurances about anything in quite extraordinary time.

We will of course continue keep you updated should any information change, and our genuine thanks for how you, as a community, have engaged with everything we have done so far.

Kind regards,

Kathryn Marshall

Headteacher