# Haileybury Turnford

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16th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**Coronavirus latest information for parents and carers: Monday 16th March**

The government has updated its guidance to all persons this afternoon.

The safety and welfare of our students and staff remains our highest priority.

**All persons should self-isolate at home for a period of 14 days if they, or anyone in their household, has either a high temperature or a new continuous cough.**

We ask all families to keep their children away from school for a period of 14 days if they are concerned that their child might be displaying these symptoms or others in the same household show symptoms. Please contact our Attendance Officer as usual to alert the school if this applies to your family. Otherwise government advice is that your child should attend school as normal. This guidance applies equally to all staff members who should self-isolate should they show these symptoms or others in the same household show symptoms.

We currently have a small number of students and staff who are self-isolating, but do not have any students or staff who have tested positive for coronavirus, or who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus.

If students become unwell during the school day with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, we will contact you for them to go home. Equally, staff will be sent home should this apply to them.

Our aim remains to keep Haileybury Turnford open until government policy changes. Nevertheless, there are minimum safe staffing levels for school to be fully open and in the event of heavy staff absence through self-isolation it may be necessary to partially close the school to some students. We would only make this decision when it is essential in terms of safe staffing levels, and our decision about when to send children home would be made on the basis of their age and whether they have public examinations planned for this summer. Decisions may be made at short notice but we would hope to inform families on the day before if we have to partially close to some year groups. We currently plan to be open to all year groups on Tuesday 17th March.

We have either postponed or cancelled a number of events this week and next week. Year 8 Parents' Evening is postponed on Thursday 19th March, as is our Music Concert on Tuesday 24th March and Awards Evening on 26th March.

Should the government decide that schools across the country should close, then we will follow this updated advice fully. Our contingency planning for this eventuality is ongoing, and it will involve the use of online curriculum resources for students as well as Class Charts and the school's email system for communication between teachers and students. We are also in the process of planning to support those students who do not have Internet access.

Whilst the school is open we are not in a position to provide specific work for individual students whose families have chosen to keep them absent for precautionary reasons. Teaching staff are focusing on teaching those students in school. However, homework set on Class Charts should be completed by students who are well, but self-isolating, and we have produced further online curriculum resources for students to work from which will be sent out and also placed on our website tomorrow.

Clearly there remains significant uncertainty ahead, but we are making preparations to ensure our students and staff can continue to work from home, if not unwell themselves, during a closure period which could last for an extended period.

Our cleaning team will continue to take additional measures, as per guidance provided to them, and we continue to promote regular hand washing for all members of the school community.  Current government guidance on coronavirus and information for the public can be found at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public

Thank you for your support and understanding during these unpredictable times.

Yours faithfully

**Robin Newman**
Principal