



16 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. The purpose of this letter is to let you know the academy's response in light of this and action required from you to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

At Hodgson Academy we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government.

The academy's current situation is as follows:

- The **school remains open** and we will do all we can to remain so.
- All core school functions continue to run as normal, including internal after-school clubs.
- Students should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
  - a new, continuous cough and/or
  - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by telephoning the academy.
- We have taken the decision to postpone the following two school events:
  - Year 8 Options Evening (Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March). We will still be asking students to make provisional selections for Key Stage 4 and details about this process will follow under separate cover.
  - Year 9 Parents' Evening (Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March). We will seek to reschedule this event to a more appropriate time.
- All **external** visits have been postponed/cancelled for the foreseeable future.
- There will be some disruption to external support services provided in school.
- The Year 11 Easter School events will not now take place.
- We have asked staff to rearrange any planned face-to-face parental meetings to either a telephone or email conversation. If you have a planned meeting forthcoming with a member of staff then please expect that member of staff to contact you shortly to rearrange to this format.
- GCSE examinations are planned to continue as scheduled, therefore students should be continuing with study in preparation for these.
- Whilst, in keeping the school open, it is difficult to control large numbers of students coming together we will, where practical, attempt to minimise this. One such way we will be doing so will be to not hold whole-house assemblies, which contain more than 250 students at a time. Instead key messages will be given by senior leaders through visiting form groups.
- We will keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

Could I please ask that, as parents and carers, you take note of the following:

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**.
- Please ensure that you have access to the ClassCharts Parent app and that your child has access to the ClassCharts Student app.
- Please talk to your children about the coronavirus. We should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.
- Please could you make every effort to come and collect your child as soon as possible, if we ask you to; we will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new cough. We appreciate this can be difficult, however we do follow government guidance and do not contact parents lightly.

At the moment we have no plans to close the school and we will only do so if we are either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we will:

- Alert parents as soon as possible through every practical means available – ClassCharts and the website will be the two main methods. Further details, including plans to re-open, will be supplied through this media.
- Advise specifically about how students should continue to access education from home.

Please keep in mind that we are only sending out this information to help the school community prepare and, we re-emphasise, there are currently no plans to close, although this situation is developing quickly.

If you have any questions please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue.
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111.
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools.
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead.

We appreciate that this is a difficult time and we know you may be worried about the impact this might have on your child as well as our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

I. Siddall  
Headteacher

