

17th March 2020



Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Planning in case of significant levels of staff absence due to COVID-19
Continuing to educate the children of health care workers and the emergency services.**

You will be aware that we wrote to you last week to ensure that you are fully aware of our plans for every possible scenario as we face the challenge of the spread of Coronavirus and the associated illness COVID-19. At present schools are to remain open. The latest guidance on self-isolating for 14 days with the symptoms of a fever and/or a new and persistent cough have the potential to increase staff absence to a level where it is unsafe to be open to all year groups. We will try to do all we can to avoid this situation but it is a real possibility.

We have stated that under these circumstances we will close the Academy for some year groups, but be open to others. Depending on the number of staff in school we would prioritise and be open for exam classes (years 11, 12 and 13), whose examinations are only weeks away, and if numbers allowed our youngest year group, year 7. Depending on safe levels of staffing, we would look to also accommodate years 10, 8 and then 9. If we only needed to close for one or two year groups, we would look to rotate which year groups would be expected in school if we remained partially closed for a number of days. We will keep parents updated on developments via our website as well as by email and text message alerts.

Should we have to implement this strategy of partial closure Bosworth Academy wishes to support the community by continuing to have the children of vital health care staff and those of the emergency services so they can continue to work as normal, without the burden of childcare. Hence, if you work for the NHS in any capacity (including their ancillary staff), the Police, Fire or Ambulance service and would wish to send your child into school even if we are closed for their year group then please fill in the electronic google form. This form can be found at <https://forms.gle/uA329S4NQLdSKCCd9>

We also need to reiterate the guidance issued yesterday by the Prime Minister: If your child develops a new and persistent cough and/or a high temperature then they must now self-isolate for 14 days. In addition, the entire household will need to remain at home for 14 days from the first day of sickness of the first person. This also means that if anyone else in your household has displayed symptoms then you need to keep your child off school for 14 days from the first day of the person becoming sick. This will drastically reduce the chance of transmission around our community. Further information can be found following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>



Once again, it must be emphasised with our children that there is no need for alarm or distress; we are taking these steps to protect the old and most vulnerable within our community. There is excellent advice on looking after your mental health by following this link: <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

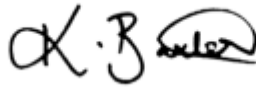
These are unprecedented and challenging times where communities need to support each other. Our school is playing a significant part in that effort by remaining open where possible. We need your support in emphasising the imperative of supportive and cooperative behaviour from all our young people as we continue to run on reduced capacity.

Please get in touch if you have any concerns or questions.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Brown
Head of School



Kathleen Baxter
Deputy Head of School



Ben White
Deputy Head of School