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17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

To ensure you are fully up to date with the latest information and implications of the Coronavirus, I would ask that you check the Academy website on a regular basis. The information we have currently is included at the bottom of the letter.

Based on this information and advice from the government we have a number of staff and students who have self-isolated or are 'shielded' as a precautionary measure.

Due to the reduction in staffing we will be asking students in year 9 not to attend the academy until further notice. We have not made this decision lightly and are doing all we can in the academy to minimise disruption whilst ensuring that we can effectively look after the health and wellbeing of students.

To support the progress of all students who are absent from the academy we are currently arranging materials and resources to support online learning. A full and detailed guide will be sent out shortly advising how students can continue to study on-line. We would ask that parents and carers support us in the continuation of your child's learning. In the interim students can continue to complete homework quizzes on "show my homework" or use <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> which has a range of resources that are appropriate for secondary students.

We have taken the decision to postpone the parent review day that was scheduled to take place on Thursday 19 this week and the Academy will be open as normal. All trips and visits for the foreseeable future have also been postponed.

This is a rapidly developing situation and we are responding to the challenges that this brings us as well as the guidance from the Government. With your continued support and help we will do all that is possible to support your child's education as we go forward. Again I would reiterate the need to check the Academy website for the latest information and guidance.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Gelder
Principal
For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust

We are advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures.

This group includes those who are:

- *aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)*
- *under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (ie anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):*
 - *chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis*
 - *chronic heart disease, such as heart failure*
 - *chronic kidney disease*
 - *chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis*
 - *chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson’s disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), a learning disability or cerebral palsy*
 - *diabetes*
 - *problems with your spleen – for example, sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed*
 - *a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy*
 - *being seriously overweight (a BMI of 40 or above)*
- *those who are pregnant*

Note: there are some clinical conditions which put people at even higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. If you are in this category, next week the NHS in England will directly contact you with advice the more stringent measures you should take in order to keep yourself and others safe. For now, you should rigorously follow the social distancing advice in full, outlined below.

People falling into this group are those who may be at particular risk due to complex health problems such as:

- *People who have received an organ transplant and remain on ongoing immunosuppression medication*
- *People with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radiotherapy*
- *People with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia who are at any stage of treatment*
- *People with severe chest conditions such as cystic fibrosis or severe asthma (requiring hospital admissions or courses of steroid tablets)*
- *People with severe diseases of body systems, such as severe kidney disease (dialysis)*

What is social distancing?

Social distancing measures are steps you can take to reduce the social interaction between people. This will help reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

They are:

1. *Avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). These symptoms include high temperature and/or new and continuous cough;*
2. *Avoid non-essential use of public transport, varying your travel times to avoid rush hour, when possible;*
3. *Work from home, where possible. Your employer should support you to do this. Please refer to employer guidance for more information;*
4. *Avoid large gatherings, and gatherings in smaller public spaces such as pubs, cinemas, restaurants, theatres, bars, clubs*
5. *Avoid gatherings with friends and family. Keep in touch using remote technology such as phone, internet, and social media.*
6. *Use telephone or online services to contact your GP or other essential services.*

Everyone should be trying to follow these measures as much as is pragmatic.

For those who are over 70, have an underlying health condition or are pregnant, we strongly advise you to follow the above measures as much as you can, and to significantly limit your face-to-face interaction with friends and family if possible.

This advice is likely to be in place for some weeks.