



Rossall

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

From: Mr J A Quartermain, Headmaster

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Our Ref: JAQ/OMR

27th January 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to you with regards to the recent outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus in China. As you will be aware, coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to severe respiratory diseases. This is an evolving situation and we are actively monitoring and reflecting upon the recommendations provided by Public Health England (PHE), the Foreign Office, the WHO, and various other public health organisations. Additionally, we are fortunate inasmuch as we have experienced medical professionals on hand to guide us.

We are mindful that there will be a number of parents who are concerned about the health of their children and we would like to assure you that we are assessing any potential risk on a daily basis. The advice we are following is regularly updated and I would encourage you to follow these updates on the PHE website which offers sensible and unbiased information to anyone who may be worried.

I thought that you would feel reassured by the various measures that we have put in place to ensure that children and staff remain safe and well.

1. We are increasing the number of hand sanitizers around the School site and all Senior and Junior School pupils will be reminded of the importance of ensuring best practice in terms of personal hygiene.
2. All staff and pupils, particularly medical centre and boarding staff, have been briefed on the signs and symptoms of the Novel Coronavirus. The latest update from the NHS can be found here (www.nhs.uk/conditions/wuhan-novel-coronavirus).
3. We will avoid taking trips to certain events which may increase the risk to students, and consequently, the wider School community. For example, we cancelled the proposed Chinese New Year trip to Manchester at the weekend. However, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year as usual in school on Friday. None of our pupils have travelled or will be travelling back to the Far East for this important event.

As half-term approaches, we ask that any pupil or family who intends to travel outside Europe, or have direct contact with anyone from a Novel Coronavirus affected area, inform us immediately. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently advises against travel to Hubei Province.

As such please note.../

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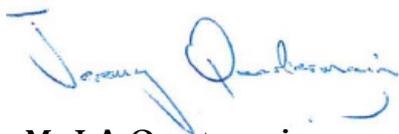
As such please note:

- *Any pupil, parent or visitor who has travelled to or been in direct contact with anyone from a Novel Coronavirus affected area may be asked to remain away from School for a period of up to fourteen days to prevent the potential spread of the virus.*
- *We ask our international community to speak with their UK guardian to confirm that Half Term cover can be made available and if not to let school know immediately.*

These measures are precautionary and take into account the latest advice provided by the Foreign Office.

Additionally, we have given due consideration to the measures put in place by other UK universities and boarding schools. Please do not hesitate to contact Mark Pryor (Senior Master and DSL) if you have any further queries relating to the above. Should we be required to put in place more robust measures then we will inform you. Similarly, we will notify you as soon as we are able to relax these temporary restrictions.

Kindest regards



Mr J A Quartermain
Headmaster

