



13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, the Government has moved the country to the Delay Stage of the Coronavirus Pandemic. This currently means schools should continue to stay open and that students should continue to attend school. However, students should not attend school if they have Coronavirus symptoms, however mild. Coronavirus symptoms include:

- a new and persistent cough
- a high temperature

For more information please go to www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance . Also, if NHS 111 or a medical practitioner advises a student to self-isolate, they must not attend school. Under current guidance, students who experience these symptoms or circumstances should not come into school for at least 7 days. Whilst we have been planning for this situation for some time, we know that this will cause turbulence in school. This is because we will have to manage unprecedented levels of staff and student absence.

How can you help?

- If you suspect your son or daughter has any symptoms of Coronavirus, please do not send them into school
- Please let us know as soon as possible if your son or daughter is either ill or is self-isolating because of Coronavirus symptoms
- Follow the guidance regarding how students can continue with their studies if they are well enough, published on the school website <https://bridgewaterhigh.org/coronavirus/>

We anticipate an unprecedented level of absence related phone calls. Therefore, we have created dedicated absence email addresses which we would prefer you to use.

- For Upper school students: absenceupper@bridgewaterhigh.com
- For Lower School students absencelower@bridgewaterhigh.com

If you have a son or daughter on both sites it would help us if you could send two emails. Today you will receive an email asking you to provide the following information in the event of having to report an absence:

- Year Group and Tutor Group
- Reason for absence e.g.
 - Coronavirus symptoms
 - Self-isolating because of medical advice
 - Other (please state)

We will issue further guidance on a regular basis through the school website and app which we recommend you also download. Instructions for doing this have already been emailed out from ParentApps. Please check your junk mail if you have not received it. If you have still not received it please email t.eden@bridgewaterhigh.com .

These are unprecedented times for us all. But we are confident that if we all pull together we will be able to manage them effectively.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Long, Principal



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