Dear Heads,

**Re: Coronavirus latest information and advice**

In light of confirmed cases of the virus in the UK and media coverage in relation to staff and students returning from ski trips in Northern Italy / visits to Southeast Asia, we felt it would be useful to share and reiterate the current guidance set out by regulatory bodies and confirm our stance as a family of schools.

**School Closures**
The current advice being given on the government website and by Public Health England is that there is currently no requirement for schools to close.

**Returning from a category 1 country or area in the past 14 days**

This includes:
- Wuhan city and Hubei province, China
- Iran*
- Daegu or Cheongdo, South Korea*
- Any Italian town under containment measures*
  - in Lombardy: Codogno, Castiglione d'Adda, Casalpusterlengo, Fombio, Maleo, Somaglia, Bertonico, Terranova dei Passerini, Castelgeruno and San Fiorano
  - in Veneto: Vo' Euganéo

*Only if you’ve returned on or after 19 February 2020

Contact NHS 111 for advice, and:
- Self-isolate for 14 days after leaving the country or area (see the home isolation advice sheet for help with this)
- If you become unwell, call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention)

**If you have a suspected case**
If anyone has been in contact with a suspected case in your school, there are no restrictions or special control measures required while test results are pending.

You don't need to close your school or send pupils or staff home.

However, you must:
- Clean all surfaces that the suspected case has come into contact with, using disposable cloths and household detergents, including:
- All surfaces and objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids
- All potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles and telephones

- Keep waste from the suspected case, such as used tissues, in a double-wrapped and tied bin bag, which should be placed in a safe place and marked for storage (if the results are negative, this can then be put in the normal waste)

**If the case is confirmed**

Your local health protection team will contact you to:

- Discuss the case
- Identify people who have been in contact with the infected individual
- Advise on any actions and precautions that should be taken
- Undertake a risk assessment of your school (this will help decide whether to close your school, which won't be necessary in most cases)

DfE and PHE guidance for educational settings can be found [here](#).

If you do need to contact Public Heath England the details for your local branch are below:

**Birmingham Local Heath Protection Team**

PHE West Midlands East Health Protection Team  
5 St Philip’s Place  
Birmingham  
B3 2PW  

0344 225 3560 option 2

**Preparation**

Please review your business continuity plan and available resources for students to continue learning if the situation changes and the government closes schools.

Please see attached the following helpful advice sheets:

- A map indicating the Italian towns under containment measures
- A PDF Home Isolation advice sheet from gov.uk

If you have any further questions relating to this communication, please contact Amy Hannah at amy.hannah@ske.uk.net

If you have any concerns about a situation in your school, or require any further assistance please reach out to the following:

- Laura Ganderton, Company Secretary: laura.ganderton@ske.uk.net  
  07827441618
- Tom Rowland, Director of Finance and Operations: tom.rowland@ske.uk.net  
  07887495428

The Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham  
Foundation Office, Edgbaston Park Rd  
Birmingham, B15 2UD