



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

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Registered Charity number 1125375
Registered as a Company Limited by
Guarantee in England number 6596258
Registered Office as below

Dear Parents and Guardians

We have continued throughout this week to plan our approach to the ever-changing COVID-19 global outbreak.

Our focus with pupils this week has been one of prevention and health promotion. Our School Nurses, Alex Robson and Tanya Farren have gone above and beyond throughout the week to deliver interactive, age appropriate health promotion to the whole school. The majority of pupils have attended hand washing assemblies and our youngest pupils have had individual hand washing time with the Nurses.

We have distributed health promotion kits of tissues, tissue bins and additional hand sanitiser in all buildings to support the 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it' campaign. Our cleaning and catering teams have implemented enhanced routines to support the whole school hand washing initiative.

Continuity of education in the midst of this outbreak is our priority and we continue to follow Public Health England (PHE) guidance in this regard. As such, we will continue with co-curricular activities, trips and sports fixtures as much as possible until PHE guidance advises otherwise.

Key staff have spent much of this week reviewing our plan based on the current and potential status of the outbreak. The UK Government action plan published on 3rd March states that current data indicates that the illness seems rarer in people under 20 years of age. Our risk assessment however recognises that we have a small number of pupils and staff with underlying health conditions, who may be at greater risk if they have the virus. Please be assured that we will do everything possible to protect our most vulnerable in the event of a suspected or confirmed case in School.

Viruses are not a rare occurrence in Schools, particularly those with boarders and each year a seasonal virus spreads. The tremendous work of our medical and boarding staff ensures that there is little impact on the day to day operations of the School.

We continue to request that parents keep us informed of any cases of self-isolation or suspected cases within families, following recent trips to Europe and any guidance from GPs or PHE that is being followed. Please continue to contact medical@barneyschool.org.uk or 01833696063 with any information or concerns.

We will of course continue to keep you informed of any changes in our approach to PHE guidance.

Should you wish to discuss any concerns further, please do contact me directly.

Kind Regards

Suzanne Metcalf
Bursar and Clerk to the Governors