



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

School office: +44 (0)1833 690222
Facsimile: +44 (0)1833 638985
Email: genoffice@barneyschool.org.uk
barnardcastleschool.org.uk

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

Dear Parents,

Further to my email earlier this week, you will also have received Mr Jackson's most recent update to our whole school community last night. We recognise that for our boarders and their families, especially those from beyond the UK, this is a very difficult time. Please be reassured that we continue to follow the UK Government's guidance here at Barney and that every precaution is being taken within the boarding community to ensure that your child is safe. Practical measures are in place and our staff and pupils are sensitive to the potential impact of this situation on pupils who are away from home.

Self-Isolation

As referred to by Mr Jackson, the new guidance was issued yesterday regarding self-isolation for 7 days with symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild. The 'stay at home' guidance can be found [here](#). This change in approach has led to a review of our original self-isolation plan for suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our boarding community, given that the number of boarders requiring self-isolation due to milder symptoms will likely increase. Self-isolation for boarders will involve staying in a room (ideally their own room if not shared) in their boarding house, close to a bathroom. Our preferred option, if feasible for family circumstances, for boarders who live locally or nationally, is that they return home to family to complete the 7 day self-isolation. Despite our efforts to mitigate pupil concerns with positive and supportive messages, with so much news and speculation surrounding the virus online, we are concerned that pupils in self-isolation will become anxious and homesick. The house pastoral teams will continue to deliver the excellent pastoral care but the limitations of contact when following guidance is challenging. The medical centre staff will contact parents when pupils are assessed as requiring self-isolation.

International Travel

With the uncertainty regarding international flights, a number of families have taken the decision for their children to depart earlier. We would like to reassure you that, if you would like to arrange for your child to return home before the end of term, we are more than happy to for this to be arranged. We would ask that you continue to liaise closely with your child's Housemaster or Housemistress if this is an option you would like to pursue in order to arrange for school work to be set during absence.

With kindest regards

Mr Peter Lavery

Deputy Head (Pastoral)