



Gladesmore Community School

Crowland Road, London, N15 6EB.
Tel: 020 8800 0884 Website: gladesmore.com



16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Coronavirus

Further to our letters from last week. You will appreciate that the situation is changing daily and we want to give you the latest updates so that we can work together as a community to address the challenge we face.

On Thursday 12th March, the Prime Minister announced that the Government was moving from the 'containment' phase of their anti-coronavirus strategy to the 'delay' phase. The main change in the strategy was to advise anyone with a continuous cough and/or a high temperature to self-isolate for 7 days. Further detail is available at: www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response

We appreciate that this is an anxious time for families. We have tried to answer some of the questions we believe you may have below. Please be aware that the school is receiving a very large number of contacts during this period. If you need to contact the school you may email us at admin@gladesmore.com

Will the school close?

The Government made it clear that they are not advising schools to close at the current time unless told to do so by Public Health England. Should the situation in regards to schools closing change, we will update you as soon as possible. As we explained in our letter last week, should there be a confirmed case of Covid 19 at Gladesmore, a short-term closure may be necessary to enable a deep clean of the school. Our aim is to continue providing the high-quality educational experience that you expect of us for all students.

When should I keep my child home?

If your child does develop a continuous cough and/or a high temperature you must follow the guidance given by Public Health England and keep your child at home for **at least 7 days**.

If your child shows other flu like symptoms or is unwell, we **strongly recommend** that keep your child at home until they are fully recovered. In this situation, please contact the school and let us know.

We are aware that some students may be, due to underlying health conditions, at greater risk from Covid 19. The Government's advice for these students is to continue to attend school unless they are showing symptoms. However, we do appreciate that parents will be particularly anxious in these circumstances and so we are supportive if parents decide to keep their child at home.

We understand that **each family will need to assess the risk** that the virus poses to their own family as a whole. We appreciate that you may feel it necessary to keep you child at home in order to protect anyone in the family who may be at particular risk. For instance, if anyone is in the high-risk group, such as those over the age of 70 years, those pregnant, or with underlying medical conditions. If parents decide to keep children at home to minimise these risks these absences **will be authorised** by the school. We fully understand that parents will need to take the action that they feel is sensible and necessary in order to protect their family.



What will Gladesmore do to reduce risks at school?

Primarily, any staff or students who might have come into contact with anyone who may have Coronavirus should not attend the school.

We will continue to provide students with the latest advice and in particular will continue to push high standards of hand hygiene. To support this we placed a number of hand gel dispensers around the school for student and staff use. We also have a team of cleaners who go around the school throughout the day wiping surfaces and doing additional checks on washing and toilet facilities. These measures have been in place for the last two weeks.

We have cancelled all non-essential activities. We have taken the decision to suspend all educational visits until Friday 3rd April, in the first instance. With regret we have also taken the decision to cancel the parents' evening for Year 11 this week, however, all teachers will be providing feedback through a Target Booklet and a School Report.

If my child is at home how can they continue with their education?

Staff are preparing materials to help students to continue with their learning at home. Parents should consult the Gladesmore Website for the latest up-to-date information regarding this. In particular we will make use of 'Show My Homework' to provide work for students if they are absent. Furthermore, all students can access the 'My Maths' online programme and should be in possession of a reading book.

Should the decision be taken to close the school for any period of time we will be posting additional learning materials on 'Show My Homework' and links to online resources. Updates will be posted on the Gladesmore Website on a regular basis. We urge parents to check the Website in the case of a prolonged school closure. Students who are in Year 11 will be issued with specialist revision materials in the next few days.

We appreciate that these are unprecedented times. It is difficult for all of us and we are doing our best to handle the situation. But believe that if we all work together we will still achieve outstanding educational outcomes for the children.

Thank you for your support at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Tony Hartney CBE

