

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Update re: COVID-19 update 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

I wanted to write to you with an update from John O' Gaunt regarding our approach so far in relation to the ever-changing situation around COVID-19.

We are following very closely the advice and updates that are being provided by GOV UK and Public Health England and we continue to take all the necessary safeguards around handwashing and personal hygiene, as well as following the advice around those who have visited Category 1 and Category 2 countries. As well as national advice, information about next steps is coming out regularly from Excalibur Academies Trust and the Local Authority; all of which we consider to ensure we are doing all we can.

The following link provides information on the latest guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

In order to prepare for what may be about to come, below are a number of the measures in addition to those outlined above, that the leadership of John O' Gaunt would like to inform you about that we have already done:

- We have ensured that all our systems for Academy closure, should we be directed to do this, are in place.
- We have ensured that all our online learning platforms are up to speed and ready should we need to be setting work for pupils remotely. The main one would be 'Class Charts' so we do recommend you check that you and your child have access and if they are not, please let the office know and we will help to sort.
- We are placing priority on making certain that all content for exam subjects in Year 11 (and where relevant in Year 10) is covered and prepared for, appropriately.
- We have increased communication with the Exam Boards so that we gather reassurances that no student would be in any way disadvantaged within the up and coming exam season. Clear advice would be given to all schools across the country and we would keep in close contact with all students affected.
- We have taken the decision not to shake hands with parents and other visitors to the Academy in an attempt to follow guidelines from Public Health England.
- We have cancelled or postponed some of our visits, though we await further advice about the ski trip; we will inform parents in due course.
- Some of our sports fixtures may be cancelled where we may have concerns.

As an Academy, we believe that we are prepared should GOV UK move us to a higher phase with its plans to contain this virus. If you should have any concerns at all though, please do not hesitate to contact us through the school office.

Yours sincerely



Corinne Walker  
Head of School