



Shirley High School

Performing Arts College

"Striving for Excellence"

TM/KAW/Coronavirus Update
2 March 2020

To all Parents / Carers of Shirley High School

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CORONAVIRUS update

We are conscious that parents and students may like to know more about our approach to Coronavirus. We would like to reassure you that, if the outbreak becomes a significant issue in England, we will seek guidance from the DfE and communicate it to our families in a timely fashion to help manage it.

We are regularly monitoring the daily official guidance from Public Health England, the Foreign Office and the DfE – see helpline details below for your information. You'll be pleased to know that there have been no cases of Coronavirus at Shirley High School. Please be aware that we are enhancing our cleaning regimes appropriately, in accordance with Government guidance.

The Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline

Yesterday the DfE launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

Sensible precautions

We would be grateful if families continued to discuss sensible precautionary measures in relation to the spread of any cold/flu virus:

- Regular and thorough handwashing, particularly before eating. If you would like your son or daughter to bring hand sanitiser to school, we are happy for them to do so. Please also encourage sensible allowance of personal space, good eating and good sleeping;
- A short video by the NHS about handwashing may be viewed [here](#);
- Use a tissue when they cough or sneeze and then throw it in a bin;
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth if they have not washed their hands;
- Avoid sharing items such as drinks.

Catch it, kill it, bin it

This remains true for coronavirus with some evidence to suggest it dies after 15 minutes on a tissue. If no tissue is available, we are advised to use the crook of the elbow, in order to avoid a cold/flu virus spreading via the hands (which then touch things and spread the virus).

Travel

The government advises against travel to several regions across the globe. Please click [here](#) for the latest list.

Principal: Mr T Myton NPQH NPQSL IOMEL CLT PGCE BSc (Hons)

Shirley Church Road, Croydon, CR0 5EF **Tel:** 020 8656 9755 **Web:** www.shirley.croydon.sch.uk **Email:** office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk

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Self-isolation

If you believe you may have come into contact with the Coronavirus, please dial 111 for advice. If you begin to show symptoms, you should ring 111 who will give advice on self-isolation. Please inform the school if this is the case and non-attendance will of course be authorised.

We'd like to thank students for their sensible outlook on the emerging global situation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Myton', written in a cursive style.

T Myton
Principal