

Tuesday 25th February 2020

Dear parents and carers

Coronavirus (COVID-19): information and advice

I am writing to inform you that a group of twenty sixth form students and three members of staff have recently returned from a half term ski trip to Pampeago in Northern Italy.

Based on the scientific advice of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), the UK Chief Medical Officers are today advising anyone who has travelled to the UK from Northern Italy in the last 14 days and is experiencing cough or fever or shortness of breath, to stay indoors and call NHS 111, even if symptoms are mild.

We are aware that a number of other students in school have been away skiing over half term and, if you have returned from Northern Italy (defined by a line above, and not including, Pisa, Florence and Rimini), since February 19th, and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people and call NHS111. Regularly updated government guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

As a precaution, we have advised our staff and students that were on the ski trip to remain at home for the time being and to seek medical advice if they have any flu-like symptoms. We have also contacted the parents and carers of our potentially medically vulnerable students to make them aware of the situation. All other students, including siblings of those on the ski trip, should attend school as normal.

The following flu-like symptoms may develop in 2-14 days after exposure to someone who has COVID-19 infection and should be treated in the same manner:

- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fever

Generally, the infection can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups – very few cases have been reported in children.

I will update you if I have any further news and I have attached a leaflet with more information. Please contact the school if you would like any support or guidance.

Yours sincerely,



MRS S FAIRBAIRN
Executive Headteacher

