

29 January 2020

Dear Parents

Novel Coronavirus

Further to our ParentMail to you last week, we write to update you with further information. We are bound to follow the FCO and relevant medical advice to exercise caution in an environment where a virus could spread very quickly. Naturally, we are very sensitive to any anxiety or disruption our precautions may cause.

February half term

Any pupils who had planned to travel to China and Hong Kong over February half term are advised not to travel and to seek advice from insurers / airlines regarding rescheduling tickets / travel claims. Please ensure you have made suitable alternative arrangements with your UK-based guardians.

If pupils do decide to travel to any part of China and Hong Kong, when they return, families should be aware that protective measures could well be in place before they return and we may not be able to accommodate them at school. Depending on how the virus spreads by that time, this could include the need for returning pupils to be quarantined, even if not unwell, owing to the incubation period of this particular virus. There is also the possibility and risk that pupils might not actually be able to depart the country or region in order to return to the UK.

UK-bound visits from family /friends to see their children

Following medical advice, we are also now advising parents, family and friends of pupils not to plan to travel to the UK to see their daughters / sons in either Eastbourne or elsewhere, pending further information. While screening is taking place in more airports, as you will appreciate, the incubation period for this virus can last a significant number of days during which travellers could pass on the virus without realising to pupils and thereby onto the school communities.

While writing, we pass on further NHS England Wuhan novel coronavirus guidance: 'If you have travelled to Wuhan City in China in the last two weeks and feel unwell, call NHS 111 for advice. Do not go straight to a doctor's surgery or hospital.'

Symptoms usually include one or more of the following:

- feeling tired
- difficulty breathing
- a high temperature
- a cough.

To read the NHS guidance in full: www.nhs.uk/conditions/wuhan-novel-coronavirus

Travel which has taken place in the last 14 days or essential / unavoidable travel planned for the future

As previously stated, parents and pupils are asked to notify medical staff in the relevant school **in advance** of any planned or intended to or from China and Hong Kong so that, if anyone develops symptoms on return, the



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school is aware and can act accordingly. Any parents / family who have flown to the UK to visit their daughters / sons over the Chinese New Year or have been in China or Hong Kong in the last 14 days, please let us know via

- St Andrew's Prep: medical@standrewsprep.co.uk
- Eastbourne College: medical@eastbourne-college.co.uk

Prospective parents, educational agents, etc

We have cancelled all official visits from agents and prospective parents from higher risk areas of the world with immediate effect and, for the time being, we will be aiming to meet and provide information remotely.

Support for pupils

We appreciate that some of our pupils may well be concerned about friends and families at this time and that, to a greater or lesser degree, some of our pupils may find this situation disruptive and distressing. We encourage any pupil experiencing emotional difficulties as a result of this disturbance to talk to their house staff without delay in order that they can be appropriately supported.

Support for families

We will, of course, respond empathetically and sensitively to any special personal situation which pupils / families may experience as a result of this situation. We encourage parents and pupils to get in touch with either the medical staff (for clinical advice) or house staff (for any other kind of support) with their concerns.

With best wishes

Gareth EB Jones
Headmaster, St Andrew's Prep

Tom NM Lawson
Headmaster, Eastbourne College

Dr Andrew Stewart
College Medical Officer

Catherina Ashford and Eloise Cheary
Directors of Admissions
St Andrew's Prep and Eastbourne College