



Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Coronavirus advice and update

We are conscious that parents and young peoples may like to know more about Wize Up's approach to Coronavirus. We would also like to reassure you that, if the outbreak becomes a significant issue in England, we have policies and procedures in place to be able to manage it.

As you will appreciate, this is a rapidly evolving situation and we are monitoring daily the official guidance from Public Health England, the Foreign Office and the Department for Education. Wize Up have been briefed on the latest advice and will be regularly updated. So far, there have been no cases of Coronavirus in Wize Up. However, we are enhancing our cleaning regimes appropriately, in accordance with government guidance. There will be increased advice and guidance given to young peoples and staff on hygiene control.

In particular, young peoples will be asked to:

- Wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser, 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;
- 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.

In relation to the summer examinations, we are also keeping up to date with guidance from our examination bodies: [AQA](#) and [Edexcel](#)

It is important that schools and families do all they can to protect young peoples and staff. The official guidance for any young people or parent who has returned from a Coronavirus hotspot, known as a 'Category One' area, since 19th February is that they

should call NHS 111 to inform them of their recent travel, stay indoors and avoid contact with other people even if they do not have symptoms. These areas are listed by the government on this webpage, which is regularly updated. Please inform the school if this is the case and non-attendance will of course be authorised. We have increased monitoring of staff travel and any adults who have visited regions of concern will be required to self-isolate as per official government guidance.

If your young person has been to another area where there are known to be cases, and you are concerned, you will need to contact 111 and discuss any proposed absence with the school. This advice may be subject to change, depending on developments.

Please note, for all other cases, absence will not be authorised.

An information area has been set up on the Wize Up website to keep you updated with information as it changes and also provide answers to some frequently asked questions.

An outbreak such as this obviously has the potential to cause alarm across our communities, but does need to be kept in perspective. In particular, it is important not to cause undue fear or alarm in children; in many cases, particularly if you have young children, there is no need at this stage for them to be told about Coronavirus. We hope that the measures outlined in this letter will help to reassure you that our schools are following official guidance and managing the situation professionally and appropriately.

Yours faithfully

Wize Up