



**Rye College**  
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Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock  
Head of College: Mr Dom Downes

16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Families and Students,

**LATEST GUIDANCE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

The UK Government has issued updated guidance on managing Coronavirus (COVID-19). We continue to follow all such guidance with a planned response.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Current advice remains clear: no school or early years setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of school closure on both children's education and the workforce would be substantial but the benefit to public health may not. His advice to education is based on the best scientific evidence which at this stage suggests **children are a lower risk group**.

We are taking a proactive approach to minimise any potential impact on our community. We are focusing our work with children on regular hand washing throughout the day alongside an enhanced cleaning regime targeting handles, surfaces and railings as well as regular emptying of bins.

In addition, we are placing restrictions on non-essential visitors to school and non-essential lettings. There will be no offsite trips and visits for the time being and all assemblies are postponed until further notice. Year 11 Parents Evening will go ahead on Wednesday albeit with preventative measures in place.

Families should not be unduly worried about the possibility of catching the coronavirus. However, latest guidance recommends to stay at home for 7 days if you have either:

- A high temperature; or,
- A new continuous cough.

Staying at home will help protect others in your community while you are infectious. **Please notify the school on the first day of self-isolation and do not return for 7 days. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Your child should remain at home at all times.**

UK Government has indicated they may impose further measures on schools at some point in the future. Undoubtedly, this will place a strain on some of our families including those who benefit from free school meals.

Therefore, **we are supporting the Rye Branch of the local Food Bank by offering ourselves as a drop-off point for any donations.** Ideally, we would appreciate small packets, tins and jars – further details at <https://bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food>.

Our website contains up-to-date details of our response. Be assured, we continue to act in the best interests of our young people and families at all times.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Downes  
Head of School