



Battle Abbey School
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Headmaster: David Clark, BA, M Phil (Cantab)

25th February 2020

To: Parents & Guardians of Battle Abbey School (Nursery to Year 13)

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

I write to update you further about the precautions our school community is taking to prevent against the Novel Coronavirus situation. This morning, the guidance from the PHE has been updated to include travel to and from Northern Italy in addition to the locations announced previously. This is a rapidly evolving situation and, where there is any doubt, we are erring on the side of caution and are regularly seeking advice from specialist bodies.

The latest advice from PHE (Public Health England) can be found here

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

We have also been consulting with the Boarding Schools Association (BSA). We are expecting that anybody who has been to Northern Italy (defined by a line above, and not including, Pisa, Florence and Rimini), Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia or Myanmar to spend a period of 14 days (in the UK) in isolation before returning to school. Like any responsible school, please be assured that we will report any suspected incidents and take appropriate precautions with anybody suspected to have travelled to an affected area.

While this may seem overly cautious, the health, safety, and welfare of the whole school community is paramount. This applies to parents and families for the entire school from the Nursery to the Sixth Form. All staff have been briefed on the signs and symptoms of Novel Coronavirus and we will continue to update you as appropriate. The latest updates from the NHS can be found here (www.nhs.uk/conditions/wuhan-novel-coronavirus).

If you have any questions, then please contact a member of the Health and Welfare team on medical@battleabbey.school Tel: 01424 772385

We are advising pupils, students and staff to wash their hands often – with soap and water, or use school sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the bin (Catch It, Bin It, Kill It)

If you or your child feels unwell, stay at home and do not attend work or any education or child care setting (if you have been to or close to anyone from the affected areas).

We are most grateful to you all for your co-operation and understanding in this matter.

Mr. David Clark
Headmaster