



Haberdashers' Monmouth Schools

From the Principal **Mr James Murphy-O'Connor** MA Oxon

13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

We had stressed that this was a fast-moving situation but few of us could have predicted quite how fast. Since yesterday's announcement by the Prime Minister, travel advice and requirements to self-isolate have changed.

It is hard for us to keep pace with the changing advice and so we would like to direct you to the government website which spells out their guidance on when to self-isolate at home:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

In addition, there is a new link on the government website for the latest travel advice

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

This includes the following key points:

- There is no longer a list of restricted countries with a requirement to self-isolate for 14 days from a Category 1 area or 14 days if symptomatic from a Category 2 area, with the exception of Northern Italy.
- Everyone with a new persistent cough and/or a high temperature should self-isolate for 7 days.
- Overseas boarders returning to school should delay their return by 7 days if they become symptomatic. Should they become symptomatic while in school, they would then be isolated in either the medical centre or another designated space for 7 days.

As Covid-19 spreads rapidly on both sides of the Atlantic, there may be more flight restrictions as countries close their borders to delay and reduce the predicted peak in numbers. Please call your child's houseparent or housemaster if you wish to discuss travel options with them. We would fully understand if you decide your child should leave before the end of term. In those cases, we will grant authorised absence and provide some additional online teaching support.

Again, I would like to reassure you that we are assessing on a daily basis which elements of our educational programme are deemed higher risk and we will take action accordingly. Wherever possible, our aim is to postpone not cancel activities.

We have also been contacted by several parents with children who have significant underlying health issues. Please contact our senior school nurse, Mrs Louise Goodwin, to talk through any medical concerns you may have.

A reminder that all letters about Covid-19 will be posted on our website

www.habsmonmouth.org/coronavirus