

Felsted School: Statement on Coronavirus (Covid-19) - 3rd March 2020

The school is continuing to follow its published policy, and those with initial questions should refer to this document:

https://www.felsted.org/uploaded/POLICY_FILES/Felsted-School-Policy-for-Management-of-Coronavirus-Covid-19.pdf

During the 10 days since half term, the school has not had any confirmed cases of infection, although a small number of the community (7) have been required to self isolate to minimise risk. In these cases, work is being provided so that the interruption to their education is minimised. All of these are being tested for the virus, and the two test results that have returned were negative.

The Senior Leadership Team is in constant contact with the Felsted Medical Centre, and the advice of Government and Public Health England is being used to direct our approach.

The risk remains very low to anybody within the school, although we will continue to take appropriate measures to ensure the health and safety of the whole community. All members of the community are encouraged to take sensible precautions, such as regular hand washing, catching coughs and sneezes in tissues that are then binned, reporting symptoms, and (where appropriate) following self isolation instructions. This will play an important role in protecting the most vulnerable in society (including those with pre-existing health conditions) and in shaping the overall trajectory of the outbreak.

In addition, please continue to inform us if any of you has recently been exposed directly to the virus or has travelled to one of the identified high risk areas.

You might be aware that the Guildhall Music and Drama School (one of our partners through Junior Guildhall) has a confirmed case of coronavirus through one of its teachers. As a result, the Guildhall is currently closed. However, the String Training Programme will continue at Felsted, as there is no link in staffing or pupils between the STP and the main Guildhall.

Contingency planning

We are putting together contingency plans in case there is an enforced school closure, to provide distance learning and support for our students. We are also tracking the

contingency plans of the JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications), in case of any disruption to public examinations, and continuing to track closely Government advice.

Next steps

As things currently stand, we are committed to carrying on with our full programme. Should circumstances change, I will be in contact again.

Looking ahead to the Exeat weekend (13-15th March) we have two boarding houses that are remaining open at school as usual. We would ask all families to be mindful of the Government advice about high risk areas and international travel, and if any boarders want to stay at Felsted for the weekend, please make sure that the relevant HM is informed as soon as possible.

We are finalising plans for the Easter break, and will be in touch separately about these before the end of the week.

Chris Townsend