

14th February 2020

Dear Parents(s)/Guardians(s),

It has now been two weeks since our last update to parents on how the school is responding to the outbreak of coronavirus, now renamed Covid-19.

For the most part, the situation has not significantly changed. Our aim is to focus on ensuring that our pupils do not come into contact with anyone who has travelled from one of the affected areas in the previous 14 days. The Independent Schools Council and Boarding Schools Association have advised us that the following should currently be regarded as 'affected areas':

- China
- Hong Kong
- Macau
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia

Therefore, over the half term period, we expect parents to take proportionate steps to minimise the chance of any infection spreading. We have assurances that none of our boarding pupils are travelling to any of the affected areas in the week ahead. However, we would be grateful to know of any pupils – day or boarding – who might come into contact with individuals that have recently travelled from these affected areas so that precautionary steps can be taken once term restarts.

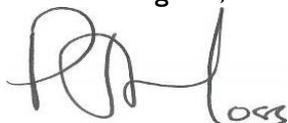
Our thoughts are with our pupils and families who have experienced serious disruption as a result of the Covid 19 outbreak and we are very grateful for the support of the wider Dean Close community, many of whom have changed travel plans, made special arrangements for their children or rearranged visits to the school.

Our attention has turned to planning for the variety of scenarios that could develop in the weeks to come. This has involved carrying out detailed risk assessments and looking at contingency plans in case the situation worsens. We would strongly advise all of our families, particularly those with boarding pupils, to consider their own situation and to have a 'Plan B' in place for the Easter holidays, should the need arise.

In the meantime, we have reminded all pupils and staff about the importance of following basic hygiene with a focus on the general principles used to prevent the spread of any respiratory virus. Further details can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu/>.

If you have any further concerns or if there is anything more that we can do to help, please do not hesitate before getting in touch.

With kind regards,



Mr P Moss
Headmaster