



## THE HELENA ROMANES SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update regarding the global coronavirus outbreak and the steps we are taking to manage the current situation at HRS.

**There are currently no confirmed cases of the virus within the school community. We will notify you if this situation changes.**

We have raised awareness of good hygiene in school via posters and presentations during registration. We have hand sanitising stations in both the dining halls and the biometric systems are cleaned with antibacterial wipes after each use. Our cleaning team have increased their focus on sanitising surfaces, door handles, bannister rails, etc. Signs reminding everyone to wash their hands have been placed in toilets. Please note that we have tested the water temperature in the student toilets and it meets the minimum statutory temperature regarding the prevention of legionella

**Please support us by continuing to remind your children to wash their hands (with soap) more frequently- especially after using the toilet and before eating.**

The school continues to follow the advice from Public Health England (PHE) and the Department of Education (DfE), which is updated on a daily basis.

A link to the Public Health England website is provided here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is now available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

- Phone: 0800 046 8687
- Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)
- Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

In addition to calling NHS 111, there is now an NHS 111 online short survey you can answer if you are concerned that you may have symptoms relating to COVID-19. This can be found [here](#).

There are a number of schools nationally with a confirmed case of coronavirus who have **not** been advised to close. If a case is confirmed at Helena Romanes School at any point in the future, we will follow the advice from PHE regarding the need for closure and will communicate the decision to parents and carers.

The government's action plan raised the possibility of future school closures, regardless of whether or not a school has a confirmed case of the virus. Its strategy will need to respond to events as they develop and we will continue to follow the government's advice and guidance.

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Headteacher: Daniel Gee BA(Hons), MA, NPQH

**Guidance for Parents & Carers in the event of an enforced school closure, following Public Health England guidance:**

Currently, we have not been advised to close, but if we do close, the closure would **not** be a holiday. Staff and students would be expected to work, with tasks and assignments being set for students by teachers via Show My Homework and Google Classrooms. **All students and staff would be expected to be available to work during the normal school timetable.** We would ask parents/carers to support and supervise this work where possible. If we are told to close in the future, we will provide further details about this.

Managing a critical situation in a school of this size takes considerable thought and skill. It is never possible to make decisions that everyone will agree with, but we can expect all parties to understand how difficult and complex these things are and not undermine the decisions that we or our advisors at the DfE/PHE take. We would therefore ask parents/carers to support us, and be understanding. If we all work together we will be able to keep our children safe and minimise the disruption to their education.

Please help us by not making unnecessary enquiries to the office – we will keep you updated if the situation changes.

Yours sincerely  
Mr D Gee  
Headteacher