



LEIGHTON PARK

FOUNDED 1890

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I am writing to update and assure you about the precautions that the School is taking against the Novel Coronavirus outbreak. We are continuing to monitor the situation regularly and are taking a dynamic approach to this complex and changing picture. We are following the advice of Public Health England (PHE) and the Foreign Office (FCO) to ensure the health of our whole community, including day and boarding students and staff.

We are mindful that there will be a number of parents who are concerned about the health of their children and would like to assure you that we are assessing any potential risks on a daily basis. The advice we are following is regularly updated and I would encourage you to follow these updates on the PHE website, which offers sensible and unbiased information to anyone who may be worried. Based on the current evidence from WHO, FCO and PHE there is no immediate cause for concern, however, we have taken the following precautions:

- In line with current Foreign Office guidance, we are advising that all students who are resident in China and Hong Kong do not travel home for half term but stay with their appointed Guardians or host family in the UK.
- We are asking for all boarding students and their parents / guardians to inform their Housemaster / mistress of their travel and accommodation plans for half term as a matter of urgency to ensure that suitable plans and arrangements are in place and can be agreed.
- Any student that travels to China or Hong Kong and returns to the UK at the end of half term will need to be quarantined for 14 days with their guardian or host family and be clear of symptoms before returning to school. Please be aware that the Association of Educational Guardianships for International Students (AEGIS) is advising that host families and guardians will be unlikely to be able to offer quarantine for returning students. In this scenario, alternative arrangements will need to be made by parents and the school informed of these arrangements as soon as possible.



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- All staff and students, particularly medical centre and boarding staff, have been briefed on the signs and symptoms of the Novel Coronavirus.

The latest update from the NHS can be found here (www.nhs.uk/conditions/wuhan-novel-coronavirus).

As half term approaches, we ask that any student or family who intends to travel to/from, or have direct contact with anyone from, a Novel Coronavirus affected area, informs us immediately. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently advises against all but essential travel to China and airlines are cancelling or reducing flights to and from airports in China.

Please note:

- Any student, parent or visitor who has travelled to or been in direct contact with anyone from a Novel Coronavirus affected area may be asked to remain at home to prevent the potential spread of the virus.
- We ask our international community to speak with their UK guardian to check that emergency cover can be made available and if this cannot be arranged to let the school know immediately what alternative measures have been put in place.

The wellbeing of our whole school community is of the utmost importance at this time, especially those from China and other affected areas, and I am sure you will join me in supporting them during this worrying period.

We will continue to keep you informed as the situation and official advice changes. Should you wish to discuss any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Myles Nash
Director of Boarding