



## Northern Ambition Academies Trust

Crewe Road, Airedale, Castleford WF10 3JU – Tel: 01977 664555 – Fax: 01977 664556

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the new government guidance issued last night, I wanted to update you on plans and preparations taking place across our family of schools as we move into the next stage of the coronavirus outbreak.

The health and safety of pupils, staff and their families is a priority across our Trust and a matter which we take very seriously. For a number of weeks we have been monitoring closely the information regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus) from the Department for Education and Public Health England and are acting on any advice given.

We have already taken steps to reduce the potential transmission of the virus by reminding everyone about the importance of good hygiene, encouraging them to wash their hands regularly and cough or sneeze into the crook of their arm or a disposable tissue. Cleaning staff are particularly focusing on high-contact areas such as toilets, balustrades and door handles to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19.

At present, the government's advice is not to close schools. Should we have to fully or partially close due to a change in the guidance or staff absence, we will use local media, send you a text using our texting service and put a message on the school's website. Unless you hear from us via these channels, please be assured that we remain open and are operating in our usual way. You can help us with this by making sure that the school has up-to-date contact details, including a mobile number and email address if you have one.

Each school is putting in place contingency arrangements to ensure that your child has access to work or activities they can complete at home if the school has to close in full or in part. Your school will be in touch with you separately to confirm these arrangements.

In accordance with the government's guidance, any pupil or staff member with a new persistent cough or a high temperature is being asked to remain at home for seven days. If they start to display these symptoms while in school, we will make arrangements to send them home. Do please follow the usual procedures for notifying school of any absence and ensure that you tell us if your child is self-isolating due to displaying these symptoms. The new guidance does not require whole families to self-isolate if the other members are symptom free, although the government has indicated this advice may change at some point in the coming weeks.

Most people self-isolating with mild symptoms will not now be tested for coronavirus. If the health authorities do decide that a member of the household needs to be tested, we ask that pupils or staff in the household remain at home for two or three days pending the result of the test, even if they are displaying no symptoms themselves. If symptoms then develop, they should remain at home in line with the self-isolation guidance; if not, or the test is negative, they can return to school. If a case of coronavirus is confirmed in your household following a positive test, please do let school know as soon as you can so we can take appropriate action to safeguard our pupils and staff. We understand that following a positive test result the whole household will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

In relation to forthcoming trips and visits, these are being reviewed by schools on a case-by-case basis as we receive more information and government guidance is updated. We will let you know as soon as we can if visits are not going ahead.

I appreciate that this is a very uncertain time for everyone. People are understandably anxious about the virus and the impact it may have. The situation is changing daily, but please be assured that our schools are working together to ensure we keep updated with the latest guidance and take appropriate, timely action. We will face this challenge together with the resilience and bravery that are part of the values of our Trust. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abyard', with a horizontal line extending from the top of the 'y'.

**Anastasia Byard**  
*Acting Chief Executive*  
Northern Ambition Academies Trust