



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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12th March 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

Re: Covid-19

I just wanted to update parents and carers about STFS management of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). There are currently no causes for concern and life at STFS generally carries on as normal. We are regularly reminding all members of the school community how to prevent the spread of germs and ensuring good hygiene for all. We are keen not to sensationalise any information and as a result we are taking all advice directly from the NHS and various branches of the Government. These links are shared with you at the bottom of the letter.

For those of you with children in Year 11 and Year 13, you will obviously have concerns regarding the Summer Examinations. The advice from the Exam Regulator, Ofqual, is that students and schools continue with their preparations for their exams as normal.

Below we have a series of questions and answers that we feel should alleviate any concerns you may have.

What is happening currently at STFS?

Everything is running normally across the school, but we have made a number of small sensible changes to keep everyone healthy.

- We're emphasising to all staff and students the need for regular thorough hand-washing throughout the day and have mounted hand sanitisers in school
- We are asking all visitors, staff and students to wash or gel their hands when coming on-site.
- We have installed sanitiser by the lunch queue so that students sanitize before collecting cutlery and using the fingerprint payment system

How can I help protect my child?

Follow the public health advice. The NHS has an excellent page here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/common-questions/>. Hand hygiene remains the most effective measure. That means washing your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds, and whenever you:

- get home or into work
- blow your nose, sneeze or cough
- eat or handle food



It's important to use soap and water or a hand sanitiser.

What do I do if my child is a little unwell?

Carry on as normal - if you would normally send them to school, please do so. If unsure seek medical advice.

If I think my child or someone else in my home may have contracted coronavirus, what do I do?

Call NHS 111 or use the service's simple new online service <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19> that will advise you what to do. Let the school know if 111 says that you should take action.

Can my child bring hand sanitiser and tissues to school?

Yes- although we have both in school, students may be more comfortable using their own products.

Are you thinking of closing the school?

The Department for Education is very clear that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England. If the school does have to close there will be a contingency plan so that students do not lose valuable learning time. This will be shared if the need should arise.

Will you tell us if a child or member of staff has confirmed Coronavirus at STFS?

Yes.

What happens if there is a confirmed case within STFS?

We will immediately contact Public Health and then share their advice with you.

Where is the best place to get information or advice about Coronavirus?

The government has several very good regularly updated sites:

- www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public - the best starting point
- www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/common-questions/ - health advice from the NHS
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus> - advice about travel
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-statement-on-coronavirus> - advice about examinations

If you have any questions or concerns, 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

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)



Finally, I do request that parents support us in ensuring that students do not become overly anxious and reassure them over the measures they can take to protect themselves and those around them. Our endeavours should be in preventing the spread of germs and protecting the most vulnerable amongst us. If there are any significant developments or decisions to be made, you will of course be made aware.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Neale Pledger
Headteacher

