



# Hillcrest School & Sixth Form Centre

Headteacher Julie Ann Davies BEd (Hons) N P Q H  
Stonehouse Lane, Bartley Green Birmingham B32 3AE  
Email: [enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk)

Tel: 0121 464 3172  
Fax: 0121 428 1075

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Dear parent/carers,

The Government recently announced that we are moving from the Contain phase of the coronavirus action plan and into the Delay phase, in response to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

We assure you that we take the health and safety of our school community very seriously and, while there is currently no cause for concern at our school, we will keep you updated with any developments, including whether we will need to close.

Current guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE) remains that schools stay open; however, it is possible that this advice may change as the spread of coronavirus continues. If we are required to close our school, we will take the necessary steps to ensure you are informed of the closure and that the effect on students' education is limited.

In the meantime, we will continue to implement the relevant advice issued by the DfE and PHE which includes pro-actively encouraging staff and students to wash their hands regularly throughout the day, increasing the school cleaning schedule with a particular focus on additional cleaning of touch points around school e.g., door handles etc.

We are currently in the process of reviewing all trips and visits that are due to take place and also reviewing our external visitor policy. Parents and visitors will be update accordingly.

Advice for educational establishments is detailed here: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

- The symptoms are: A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

### **Department for Education coronavirus helpline**

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is 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:08000468687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

In the event that we do have to close the school, you will be informed via ParentMail text message and email and advised on how long we expect the closure to last. **Please check that you have provided us with your most up-to-date contact details to ensure you receive any correspondence regarding a closure. If you need to provide us with new details, please contact the school on 0121 464 3172 or by emailing [enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk).**

We will also regularly update the school website with any important information.

### **Arrangements for student work during a school closure**

All work will be set for students via Show My Homework (SMHW) this can be accessed via a smart phone, tablet or computer. If your child has any problems accessing SMHW please email [enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk) and a member of staff will contact you to support.

<https://hillcrest.satchelone.com/school/home>

Students can access their individual work by logging in or can search for their class assignments on the open access version of the site.

1. The work set will be a mixture of assignments and some online learning e.g. Hegerty, Seneca and Active learn.
2. Students should also use their Knowledge Organisers to self-quiz for an hour each day (split into three 20-minute slots).
3. Students should also continue to read as much as possible.

**Please note that we are not confirming that the school will close – we want to reassure you that if this were to happen, we are fully prepared.**

Yours sincerely,



Ms J A Davies  
Headteacher