



# Heathcote School & Science College

Normanton Park, Chingford, London E4 6ES. Tel: 020 8498 5110 Fax: 020 8529 3935

E-Mail: [heathcote.school@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:heathcote.school@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk) Web: [www.heathcoteschool.com](http://www.heathcoteschool.com)

*Headteacher:* Emma Hillman NPQH, MSc, MA



Dear Parent/Carer,



I hope you have had a calm and illness-free weekend. Things have moved pretty quickly since my last letter and I wanted to ask you to be very vigilant checking Parent Mail and the website this week and beyond so you can ensure you have up-to-date information.



We will, as you know, aim to provide the normal education for as long as we can but think that we have to be more open to the idea that schools will struggle to operate fully and 'normally' every day over the next few weeks dependent on staff numbers; for example, some vulnerable staff will need to self-isolate and also may be affected by the closure of nurseries or other child care providers.



If we are not able to operate as normal, we may have to consider measures such as shorter days, staggered starts, larger class sizes (following Government advice) or not providing a complete education for each year group every day. As you know, if this were to happen, we aim to prioritise Year 11, 13, 7 and our most vulnerable pupils as well as other groups such as children of parents who work in front line services. However, it is impossible to predict what the impact on staff attendance is and therefore the safe running of the school, except on a day to day basis. I would therefore ask you not to assume this will happen but be open to the idea that it might. I appreciate this is somewhat vague, but our priority is to be prepared for every outcome. As you know, we are planning to ensure pupils have work if the situation changes and will provide further details of this as and when (this will be mostly on line as outlined in my previous letter).



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We are remaining very calm and measured but need to be sure that we can communicate with you as quickly as we can if things change during the next week or so, regardless of the advice the Government may give.



Otherwise, please follow all the national health advice and normal attendance procedures if your child is unwell ensuring you let us know the circumstances and providing precise details if you are self-isolating your child for 7 days as per the guidance. Please keep us updated after this time. Please do let us know if there are any exceptional circumstances. If your



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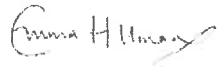
child is unwell and you are worried about providing food as they normally receive school dinners, please do let me know and we will try and support.

We will be meeting daily to address issues along with the Governing Body and ensure measures are in place. I am in constant contact with all the other Headteachers in Waltham Forest to ensure we are working together to find the best solutions.

On a final note, we will be putting a hold on some activities and events and will keep you updated. We have not yet made a decision about the post 16 Parent Evening on 26<sup>th</sup> March and will keep you updated nearer the time.

I look forward to welcoming pupils to school as normal tomorrow morning, except in exceptional circumstances and/or following the national health advice.

All the best

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emma Hillman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Emma Hillman