

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



16 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus/ COVID-19 Update – 16th March 2020

I am sure that you are all following the news closely and are aware of the new Coronavirus advice that came out on Friday.

Following updated government guidance, if any pupils or staff members develop the following symptoms, they must stay at home for seven days:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough

Do not go (or take your child) to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

For most people, Coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection but if symptoms get worse or are no better after 7 days, contact NHS 111 online. <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergency-care/nhs-111/>

If you have no internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Stay at home guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Please let the Academy know as soon as possible if your child is unwell.

If anyone becomes ill during the Academy day they will need to go home and will be asked to remain at home for 7 days. **Please make sure that the Academy has up-to-date contact details for you and that you keep phones on so we can get in touch with you if necessary.**

We do not have any confirmed COVID-19 cases at St Matthew Academy.

Public Health England and Department for Education current advice for Academy's in London is that staff and pupils should monitor themselves for symptoms and self-isolate if they experience symptoms. People who do not have symptoms are advised to carry on as normal and do not need to self-isolate.

We understand that parents are concerned about the risk of their children catching Coronavirus and that some may want to keep children at home even though they are not required to do so by the medical advice. All pupils who are well enough to come to Academy and who do not fall into the two categories described above, should attend Academy as normal.

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The St Matthew Academy Limited. A company limited by guarantee whose registered office is situated at St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London, SE3 0XX

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Successful, confident learners High expectations, outstanding achievements Inclusive, caring, Catholic community Nurturing talent, cultivating ambition Excellence for all

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We continue to follow the advice of the Department for Education and Public Health England in Academy. We are encouraging all children and staff to wash hands properly and regularly and we are taking extra care with cleaning. We will continue to follow advice and we will keep you informed of the situation and what we are doing about it.

The Academy has taken the decision to cancel trips but after Academy clubs in the Primary Phase will; continue to run as normal as will Year 10 and 11 scheduled after Academy revision sessions.

Please make sure you check the NHS and government websites daily:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

I realise that this is a very worrying time for all of us. Rest assured that the safety of pupils, staff and the Academy community remains our priority and we will keep you updated with any new information.

Yours faithfully

Ms M Baldwin
Headteacher

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