



East Dale Road  
Melton, North Ferriby  
East Yorkshire, HU14 3HS  
Tel: 01482 636716

[enquiries@theeducationalalliance.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@theeducationalalliance.org.uk)  
[theeducationalalliance.org.uk](http://theeducationalalliance.org.uk)

16 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the letter sent to all parents on Friday 13 March, we are writing to keep you informed of some temporary measures we are putting in place as we look to manage this unprecedented situation over the coming weeks, as Headteachers nationally are trying to keep their schools open as we are currently expected to as part of the government's national strategy on Coronavirus.

### Potential Future School Closures

As you know, there is a great deal of discussion nationally about whether the government may order future full school closures. The immediate situation does bring the potential for partial or full closures caused by staff absence through self-isolation and/or caring for their own children who are having to self-isolate. We do not yet know how our schools will be affected by staff absence over the next few weeks. Should high levels of staff absence occur and mean we have to make changes to how we operate we will communicate that with you as soon as possible. However, it is important to give you advance warning of possible disruption that might occur so you can also have plans in place.

### Immediate Measures

To ensure that staff can focus their energies on those things that will help us keep schools running as normally as possible, we have taken the decision to cancel or postpone a number of events between now and Easter. Please be aware, we are not doing this because of a change in advice or concerns about further spread of the virus, but to allow staff to focus on teaching and supporting our pupils and to plan on how we respond to a fast moving national picture.

As well as cancelling internal meetings, staff training and CPD to reduce the need to cover lessons, **the following events have also been cancelled or postponed** until further notice.

- **The Year 10 Progress Evening planned for Thursday 26 March**
- **All domestic trips and visits planned to run before Monday 20 April. A separate letter will go to parents/carers about detailed arrangements for these events**
- **Sporting fixtures**

At the moment, and whilst guidance is for schools to remain open, we feel it is in Year 11 pupils' best interests to continue to access planned support in the run up to their exams. If it becomes impractical to run these sessions we may have to cancel them at a future point.

### School Trips Abroad

As you are aware, the government is now advising against any school trip travelling abroad. We are awaiting further information from the government on how long this is for and whether this will be published as official Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel guidance. Once we have this



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information and the implications for claiming back payments for any trips that are cancelled, we will share it with those affected.

### Further Advice and Guidance

The advice is changing and not all links are updated. The most up-to-date advice, including guidance from the NHS, can be found through the various links at the web address below.

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

We continue to take guidance daily from the Department for Education and our Local Authorities, as well as Public Health England where required. We will continue to update you as more guidance becomes available and as the situation within school becomes more apparent. As ever, we remain enormously grateful to our staff for their hard work and to parents and carers for their support at this challenging time.

Kind regards

Jonny Uttley  
CEO

Patrick Sprakes  
Headteacher



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