

COVID 19 Statement March 13th 2020

The Vyne Community School continues to monitor the situation carefully and how it impacts all of our activities. We are updating contingency planning to ensure the well-being of our whole community.

The Prime Minister has confirmed that the government's response to COVID-19 has now moved to the Delay phase – the second phase in the government's coronavirus action plan. Advice from Public Health England continues to be for education settings to remain open, unless advised otherwise. This also applies to our community user groups and bookings. Therefore school and community bookings should continue as planned. All users should be aware of and follow the advice below.

We are reviewing all school activities in light of Government advice as they arise in the calendar and aiming to act in a proportional and measured way to balance prudence with maintaining an orderly school environment.

We continue to prepare for summer examinations as usual, should it look as though these will be impacted we will follow Ofqual advice.

The planned ski trip to Austria at Easter is being regularly reviewed and we are in contact with our travel provider. Statement from PGL Travel issued on 13/3/20

"You will no doubt have heard the government advice issued last night which is that all overseas school trips should not go ahead. This advice is open-ended in terms of date of travel, but we expect your trip at the beginning of April is unlikely to go ahead. Given the announcement was only made last night, we are seeking help and guidance from the Government and ABTA on how to deal with refunds so that we can follow their guidelines. We are sorry we aren't able to give more clarity on this immediately, but these circumstances are unprecedented and we ask you to bear with us whilst we assess the situation."

The school website should be checked regularly for any change to this position.

The delay phase and importance of hygiene

All people with flu-like symptoms - a fever above 37.8C or a persistent cough - should **self-isolate (stay at home, away from other people) for seven days**. Students who are self-isolating can find work on the school website under the Curriculum Tab label of "Work@Home".

Personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19, especially washing hands more; and the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes. Wash your hands more often for 20 seconds with soap and hot water. In addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, both children and staff should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport. We have replaced all soap in school with antibacterial soap.

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

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)

If you work in school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UKPRN) available when calling the helpline.

Updated travel advice for travellers returning from Italy

Public Health England's advice recommends that anyone returning from Italy should self-isolate, even if you do not have any symptoms. If you do develop symptoms, call NHS 111. The latest travel guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Further information on what you should do if you are asked to self-isolate can be found here: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/02/20/what-is-self-isolation-and-why-is-it-important/>