February 2020

**Coronavirus COVID-19**

Dear Parents and Carers

Over the last twenty four hours we have received a number of emails following the closure of some local schools as a response to Coronavirus COVID-19.

The safeguarding of students is of great importance to all associated with St Nicholas Catholic High School and since the emergence of Coronavirus some weeks ago, the school has continually received and actioned recommendations from the Local Authority and the Department for Education. **There have been no reports of any member of our community displaying symptoms associated with the virus as outlined by Public Health England. Given all the information available to us at present, there is no need for a full or partial school closure at this time.**

It appears that local schools who have decided to close had visited resorts in Italy designated Category 1 or 2 areas as defined by Public Health England. Our school ski trip to Alpendorf in Austria took place over the Half-Term break, and the Local Authority have confirmed that the area we visited is not in this category. We will continue to follow all advice as this situation develops and will keep you fully informed of any changes to daily operations here at St Nicholas.

In the interim we would advise all members of our community to follow the generic advice from the government as outlined below:

*There are general principles anyone can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:*

* *washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport*
* *covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin. See*[*Catch it, Bin it, Kill it*](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101/resources/5016)
* *people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting*
* *pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:*
	+ *before leaving home*
	+ *on arrival at school*
	+ *after using the toilet*
	+ *after breaks and sporting activities*
	+ *before food preparation*
	+ *before eating any food, including snacks*
	+ *before leaving school*
* *use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available*
* *avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands*
* *avoid close contact with people who are unwell*
* *clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces*
* *if you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment*

To facilitate the above, the school has ensured that there is adequate hand sanitiser soap in stock and available as usual in all toilets. We have also ensured that tissues will be available in all classrooms.

The school has been advised to inform you that should any member of your family start to display any of the symptoms associated with Coronavirus COVID-19, then you should follow the relevant advice from The Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England via [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk). We would also ask that you inform school via admin@st-nicholas.cheshire.sc.uk

I will update you with any developments should they occur.

Yours sincerely


**Richard Woods
Headteacher**