

27/02/2020

Dear Parent

The media is, unsurprisingly, full of the coronavirus epidemic with schools seeming to be the sector of greatest intrigue.

I should like thank you for your many messages of support and your co-operation regarding following government advice.

There have been three main components in ensuring that it is business as usual for the majority of our boys and staff through:

- offering government advice in responding to cold-like symptoms;
- general well-being of the school community; and
- planning ahead to assess the expediency of future trips.

Our ski trip took place outside of the specific lockdown areas in northern Italy; the UK Government advice changed to include northern Italy on Tuesday, three days after the boys had returned. Some boys have returned with cold-like symptoms, which is not unusual after a long coach journey. RGS has measures in place to ensure that any boy who has health concerns is supported by the school's healthcare professional and parents provided with current government advice to ensure the welfare of their sons. These boys have all had professional, medical support from the NHS and the school is monitoring and recording results. Teachers have been asked to ensure the availability of online work for the boys to keep them up to speed with their studies.

We are in daily contact with public health authorities and monitoring the situation with regular meetings taking place to support the school community as necessary. We are very fortunate to have our own qualified School Nurse, 'Matron' as she is known, who has been able to take temperatures, liaise with parents and support the boys in the following of government advice.

Whilst, at the time of writing, there are no confirmed cases at RGS, there are inevitably some concerns from boys, staff and parents about the potential spread of the virus. Again, I concur with health professionals who, whilst urging leaders of large organisations to be vigilant, encourage them to maintain calmness and a sense of proportion. To this end, we fully intend to operate normally. We will continue to support families who are seeking medical clarification and are then acting accordingly. I addressed all boys in assembly yesterday with the aim of reassurance, thanking and commending them for their calmness and professionalism.

Finally, there are several trips planned in the forthcoming months. We will be inviting parents of boys involved in these opportunities to a meeting in the coming weeks to share the various terms and conditions of said trips, as well as the school's prime and overriding responsibility for its students and staff.

The strong community of committed staff, responsible parents and cooperative boys fortify us in trickier times.

My thanks to you all.

Phil Wayne