

Learning for Life!



Headteacher: **Ms Annemari Ottridge** M.Ed. NPQH NPQEL

16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to update you on the most recent advice given to us by the Government, Public Health England and HCC based on the announcements made on Friday 13th March 2020, including any most recent updates on their website.

A copy of this letter has been available for you on the school website since Friday, 13th March. However, I have made some more recent amendments to the educational trips sections this morning, 16th March 2020, based on the local information the school has received from our local partners.

The school received this update from the Government on 13 March 2020 in a daily email update to all early years, children's social care, schools and further education providers. I feel that it is important for us all know what has been said.

The Government website states clearly the following:

'Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.'

'The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce will be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to schools will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.'

In addition we have received specific guidance on educational trips. Some local trips may still go ahead and but this will be communicated to you by trip leaders and/or Form Tutors. Please observe all communication from the school on a daily basis.

'The Government has issued new travel guidance for the education sector. This advises against all overseas education trips for children under 18. This does not apply to domestic trips, or overseas trips which are already underway.'

I have received calls and emails from a number of parents who have expressed their concerns about our school staying open during these uncertain times. I appreciate your concerns and acknowledge your worries about your children's safety.

To reassure you, all schools, locally and nationally, are taking their instructions from the Government and Health Professionals who ultimately are in a position to make these decisions. We are experiencing unsettling times, where clear, factual information is key to successful and calm decision-making.

Lonsdale School, Brittain Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 8UT
 Telephone: 01438 726999, email: admin@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk
www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk



University of Hertfordshire **UH**

School of Education



YOUTH SPORT TRUST



pdnet
 A network for those supporting learners with physical disability

Learning for Life!



Headteacher: **Ms Annemari Ottridge** M.Ed. NPQH NPQEL

At this moment in time Lonsdale School will remain open for students and staff with the expectation that everyone attends normal timetable and lessons.

I will be writing to you again this afternoon, as soon the Government has further updates. Please continue to access the Government official websites for more detailed information.

Best wishes

Annemari Ottridge
Headteacher

Lonsdale School, Brittain Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 8UT
Telephone: 01438 726999, email: admin@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk
www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk



University of
Hertfordshire **UH**

School of
Education



YOUTH
SPORT
TRUST



pdnet
A network for those supporting
learners with physical disability