

18th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to you as CEO of Waveney Valley Academy Trust, therefore the following applies to Stowmarket High School, Northgate Primary School, Alde Valley Academy, Sir John Leman High School and Roman Hill Primary School.

Within the current uncertainty surrounding the impact on schools of COVID-19, I feel it is important to write to you to assure you that, as the situation progresses, we will continue to ensure that the wellbeing of our students and staff is our main priority.

You will have heard about the importance of taking sensible hygiene precautions, so of course this is being implemented across the sites. We can all continue encouraging children to maintain a sensible approach to their own hygiene, whether they are at school or at home. As a reminder of the message from the government on 16th March, if anyone in your household develops either a high temperature or a new, continuous cough, you should not send your child into school; please keep them at home with you.

We will continue to follow the advice of Public Health England and the Department for Education. As guidance changes and the self-isolation is widened, we know that we will be faced with the challenge of keeping schools open. The latest DfE guidance is that all schools and early years' settings should remain open; we will therefore work to keep our schools open for as long as it is reasonably practicable.

If we do have to close any of our five schools, you will be given as much notice as possible, but please appreciate that this may be minimal due to the fluid nature of the situation. Our teams of teachers are preparing work for your children to do at home, should a full or partial school closure become necessary. In the event of a full or partial closure, our schools will remain in touch, and update you with regard to when they might be able to reopen.

Many of you will be concerned about forthcoming SATs, GCSE or A-Levels. The below is the latest statement from Ofqual, the examinations regulator:

"We recognise that students, parents, schools and colleges will be concerned about the possible impact of coronavirus on the 2020 summer exam series. Our advice at this time is to continue to prepare for exams and other assessments as normal.


We continue to work closely with exam boards, other regulators and the Department for Education and we have met to plan for a range of scenarios, as the public would expect. Our overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum.

It is still many weeks until exams start and we will issue updated advice if necessary, giving schools and colleges as much notice as possible."

I would like to put on record my appreciation for the way in which our Headteachers and all members of staff have responded to this unprecedented situation.

This is a difficult and unsettling time for all of us; the safety of your children and our staff will always be our priority.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Rowe
Chief Executive Officer
Waveney Valley Academies Trust

Building great schools **together**

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