



25 February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Coronavirus (Covid19) - Recent Travel Guidance 25.02.20 (including Italy)**

Today's announcement from the Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, has advised that anyone returning to the UK from any of the recently published quarantined areas should self-isolate once they arrive home, whether they are displaying symptoms of the virus or not. This includes a range of countries, more recently Europe in terms of Northern Italy.

The quarantined areas released by the Italian Government include 10 small towns in Lombardy (Codogno, Castiglione d'Adda, Casalpusterlengo, Fombio, Maleo, Somaglia, Bertonico, Terranova dei Passerini, Castelgerundo and San Fiorano) and one in Veneto (Vo' Euganeo).

As a result of the above, we would ask that all families / individuals who have travelled to and from any of the identified regions, follow the advice and that you self-isolate in line with the guidelines, and contact the Academy to update on your specific circumstances and that of your child.

The British government has updated its guidance this morning and suggests that anyone returning from the region north of Pisa should avoid contact with others if they start to show flu-like symptoms. The latest guidance as of 25 February 2020 can be accessed through the following website link which relates to all countries currently affected:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

Within the Accord Multi Academy Trust there have been two recent ski visits, one of which was to France by Ossett Academy, and the other more recently to Italy over the February half term break involving pupils and staff from both Horbury Academy and Ossett Academy. In the case of these ski trips, we can confirm that both visits took place outside of the currently quarantined areas, and equally did not travel through those areas.

The more recent trip over the February half term break involving pupils and staff from both Horbury Academy and Ossett Academy visited the resort of Folgarida in the Trentino region, which has not currently been identified as a quarantined area, and therefore, the pupils and staff have not been asked to self-isolate and stay at home at this time unless they develop any relevant symptoms.

It is important to note that in order to remain vigilant, we have asked all pupils and staff to monitor any flu like symptoms and to self-isolate and contact the NHS on 111 if they feel they have potentially been exposed to the virus. We would also ask for the co-operation of

all parents / carers to take the appropriate action in relation to the regular updates to self-isolate and contact the NHS where applicable.

At this time, following the most up to date advice, we have not taken the decision to send home pupils and staff, and / or to close either Horbury Academy or Ossett Academy. We are however aware of other schools that have taken the decision to send pupils and staff home, specifically as a result of visiting the quarantined locations as reported in the media.

We will continue to monitor the advice from Public Health, the Health Secretary and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in order to maintain appropriate safeguarding arrangements and will keep you updated as appropriate.

Yours sincerely



Mrs N Walker  
Principal