



# Herne Bay High School

## Specialist Sports College

Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NS  
☎ 01227 361221 ✉ [principal@hernebayhigh.org](mailto:principal@hernebayhigh.org)



Dear Staff / Parents / Carers,

Earlier this week I wrote to you with updates on how Herne Bay High School is managing the impact of the global Coronavirus within our school setting. We are being proactive with regards to preventative measures and transparent in our communication via the new area on our website.

<https://www.hernebayhigh.org/information/coronavirus/>

We are in daily communication with a number of national professional bodies, including Public Health England, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, The Local Authority (KCC) Area Education Adviser and the Department for Education, and are following the guidance that they provide.

I would encourage you all to keep updated via our website and keep communication open with the school during this period of uncertainty.

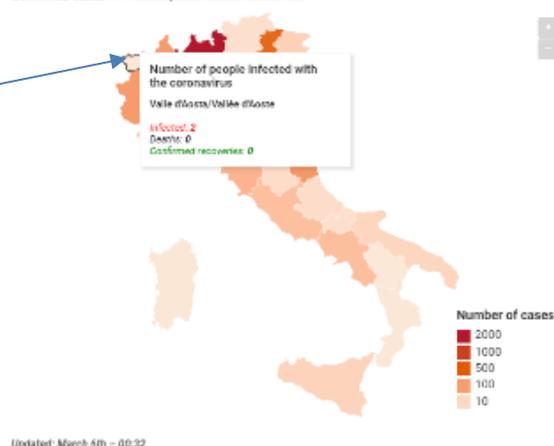
You may be aware that we have 69 students and 8 staff on a ski trip in Italy, they left last Saturday following a detailed risk assessment, something that we are undertaking for all school trips planned at the moment.

### The situation as it stands on 6<sup>th</sup> March is:

The students and staff on the ski trip travelled by coach to Pila, a resort along the Aosta valley in northern Italy, this region is an hour's drive from France through the Mont Blanc Tunnel. The Aosta region borders Italy, Switzerland and France and is a mountainous region, and is the region in Italy to have the smallest number of Covid-19 cases. The two cases reported were identified on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March in a town called Ponty, which is one hours drive from Pila, and in the opposite direction to our students return travel. Additionally, students are staying in a hotel in the town of Pila and are the only guests staying there as the size of our party means we have taken over the entire hotel. The update today from the tour operator also re-enforces the area as safe. It is important to note that most other trips reported in the press went to other ski regions or travelled by air and transferred through infected regions. The following live map taken on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> from official sources show the region and the impact in the area of Covid-19

In numbers: Italian regions affected by coronavirus (Copy)

Confirmed cases of infected, deaths and recoveries.



#### Location of Pila

The call out box on the map reflect number of cases in Aosta : 2 – they are both in a town called Ponty 45 km or 1 hrs drive away from Pila



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I have again taken the very latest updates from Public Health England, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, The Local Authority (KCC) Area Education Adviser and the Department for Education, and are following the guidance that they provide.

Taken straight from official information

### **Department for Education 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

What to do if a pupil, student or staff member has travelled from a **Category 2** specified country/area in the last 14 days

Pila is in Northern Italy and is a **Category 2** area

#### **If they are currently well:**

- they are advised to self-isolate **only** if they develop symptoms
- they can continue to attend work or education
- they do not need to avoid contact with other people
- their family do not need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities
- testing people with no symptoms for COVID-19 is currently not recommended
- it is useful to always take a mobile phone with them when they go out so that they can contact others if they do become unwell

#### **If they become unwell:**

- they should stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as they would with other flu viruses (see this home isolation advice sheet).
- they (or a family member, colleague or member of staff) should call NHS 111 immediately for them to be assessed by an appropriate specialist, as quickly as possible
- they should stay at home and should not attend work or education
- they should not go directly to their GP or other healthcare environment
- if they require emergency medical attention, call 999 and tell the call handler or ambulance control that the person has a history of recent travel to risk areas for COVID-19
- see further information and the Public Health England Blog

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

### **Public Health England 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

The advice for anyone in any setting is to follow these main guidelines.

If you have been in contact with someone with coronavirus or have returned from an affected area identified by the Chief Medical Officer as high risk **and you are feeling unwell with a cough, difficulty breathing or fever**, stay at home and use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service or call NHS 111.



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On the 6<sup>th</sup> March Public Health England did expand the category 2 area in Italy to cover all of Italy not just the northernmost regions, however the advice remains the same for category 2 as above.

### **KCC Area education advisor:**

Schools should check the [PHE website](#) every day to ascertain the latest advice. The website is being updated whenever the advice changes.

### **Action the school is taking**

ALL HBHS students and families and staff are asked to follow the professional advice from PHE / DfE and the NHS and therefore we will ONLY expect formal self-isolation if any person displays any symptoms however minor, or have had contact with known cases of Covid-19 and following parental contact and instruction from NHS 111. **However, due to the rapidly changing nature of the situation in Italy over the last two days, I am going to ask those returning from Italy not to return to school on Monday to enable additional advice to be taken from the national bodies and to monitor the situation further so that we can fully assess any risk to the HBHS community.**

All parents should become very familiar with the advice from NHS England regarding the symptoms of Coronavirus:

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath

These symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common such as cold and flu.

All parents and school community members are asked to follow this guidance carefully, particularly if any parents, staff or students travel at all either within or beyond the UK. We all need to be mindful that the risk within the UK is also very real.

Over the coming days and weeks, the school will continue to follow all advice and put in place any measures required to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of everyone within its care. If the situation changes, we will communicate with you and please also keep updated via our website <https://www.hernebayhigh.org/information/coronavirus/>.

With kind regards

**Mr Jon Boyes**  
**Principal**