



THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, BISHOP'S CASTLE

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Dear Parent/Carer

Following the recent school ski trip to Italy many of you may be concerned about the possible exposure of staff and students to the COVID19 Coronavirus.

The school ski trip travelled to Claviere in northern Italy via Turin. The trip returned on Saturday 22nd February, just as the Italian government was identifying an outbreak of COVID19 Coronavirus in another region of northern Italy. The concentration of Italian cases was in a region much further east of where our students were situated.

The British Government has today issued two pieces of advice for recent visitors to Italy. The advice falls into two criteria.

1. Britons who have been to any of the eleven quarantined towns in Italy must self-isolate, regardless of symptoms.
2. Any Britons who have been to an area north of Pisa (but not in the quarantined areas) are asked to self-isolate and seek advice if they do develop flu like symptoms.

After significant and ongoing consultation with Public Health England officials and Shropshire Council, we have been informed that our school ski trip does not meet the first criteria so we have therefore applied the second criteria to both staff and students in school.

Students and staff who were on the trip have all been checked for any of the symptoms appearing on the check list. Parents of students showing any symptoms were contacted straight away to collect their children. The following guidance issued by Public Health England was distributed and explained to parents.

Students that have signs of any common cold, sore throat, high temperature, respiratory problems, fever, cough, shortness of breath, or breathing difficulties should remain at home. If the child is in school and showing any of the above symptoms, then school will contact parents to collect immediately. Students are to remain at home and be monitored. If they do not improve then parents must contact NHS Direct, 111, immediately. You may also wish to seek advice from NHS Direct, 111 before they return to school.

Due to the high altitude of the ski trip resort, the common cold symptoms displayed by some students and staff are similar to those frequently experienced after exposure to sport and travel at high altitude. We are not making assumptions about the nature of any illness that the students are displaying. Our aim is to be careful and consistent as possible in following the guidelines set out by Public Health England.

We will continue to follow all these guidelines and will inform you immediately if there are any further changes.

Yours sincerely

Reuben Thorley

