

**Thursday 12 March 2020**

Dear students and trainees,

*Sent on behalf of Kate Ireland, Director of the Centre for Teacher Education*

**In light of the unfolding picture surrounding Coronavirus (Covid-19), we want to reassure you that we are making contingency plans for any potential interruption to your teaching, assessments or your school placement.**

**Current guidance regarding Schools and Universities:**

At present, Public Health England (PHE) has not issued advice that Universities or Schools should close. Despite this, a small number of Headteachers (as of the date of this message) across the country have taken the decision to close as a precaution, or as a result of a positive test for the virus. The University's teaching and tutorial sessions and moderation visits to schools will continue as planned unless further guidance is issued.

**What is CTE and Warwick doing about potential impact on students?**

We will make sure that an appropriate plan is agreed on a case-by-case basis to ensure that trainees' success on their PGCE is not put at risk through insufficient time in school due to school closure. Similarly, in the unlikely scenario that individual trainees need to self-isolate, we will agree a way to ensure you have the appropriate opportunities to progress with your programme alongside and/or after this period. Programme leaders are looking at ways to ensure, if the need arises, resources and training materials are available to you electronically.

**What do I do if I think I have Coronavirus:**

**If you have any concerns that you have coronavirus, please follow the PHE and University advice here: <https://warwick.ac.uk/insite/coronavirus/about/#what-to-do-1>**

**How will changes to my days in school impact my progress?**

We will do all we can to minimise the impact of any interruption or curtailment of placement so that you have the appropriate opportunity to demonstrate that you are meeting the required Teachers' Standards within the usual timeframe; this means that any trainee deemed to have met all the standards can be recommended for award. Should your planned time in school be significantly compromised and you have not yet

met the standards, we will work with our partner schools to find alternative placements and/or extend programmes beyond the normal end date for the school placement on your course.

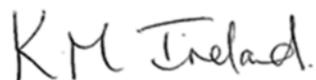
In a few limited scenarios, due to school closure and summer holidays, this could mean a trainee will not complete their course until they have had the appropriate opportunities to meet the Teachers Standards whilst training in school. We will do everything possible to avoid any trainees not being able to commence a first teaching post in September and are working closely with national bodies to agree appropriate actions in this scenario.

**What do I do if my attendance in school or at University needs to change because of school closure or self isolation?**

If you are on teaching placement and are advised that the school has elected to close as a precaution or due to a known outbreak, or have decided that you need to self-isolate, please follow the advice at the link ahead as a priority and let your personal tutor know by email as soon as possible. Please do also familiarise yourself with the advice that your placement school has provided its own staff, trainees and students.

**For further information regarding Coronavirus, the University's main FAQs can be found here: <https://warwick.ac.uk/insite/coronavirus/student-faqs/>**

Best wishes,



Professor Kate Ireland,  
Director of CTE