

14 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Notification of a Positive COVID-19 Test

I am writing to inform you that a student in Year 8 has had a positive test result for COVID-19. The advice and instruction from Public Health England is that this will only affect those students who are identified as having close contact with the person who has tested positive and all other students should attend College as normal.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus will be a mild illness.

We have used our seating plans, required as part of our COVID-safe protocols, to identify all the students who are directly affected and we have contacted all the parents of those students concerned, informing them that their child must stay at home for 10 days and their return to College will be on Monday, 4 January 2021.

Students are defined as being in close contact if they worked within 2 metres of the person who has tested positive, in a lesson and any student who had close face-to-face contact at any other time. For further information on the College's Health and Safety measures please refer to our website.

For those students self-isolating, the College will continue their education remotely.

Please note that the College will remain open as normal for all other students who remain well and we will continue to make you aware of any further updates.

We would like to reassure you that we have a wide range of measures in place, and all actions and decisions are made to ensure the safety and welfare of our students. Thank you for your continued support with regard to ensuring our students are wearing face masks, maintaining social distancing and sanitising hands.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, you **should inform the College**, they must not come to College and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Finally, thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal