

## **Coronavirus Update, Monday 21 September 2020**

**One student in year 11 at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy has tested positive for coronavirus. The student last attended the academy on Tuesday 15 September and has not been in since. The academy was informed of the positive test result on Monday 21 September. Students who were in close contact with this student have been traced and contacted. They have been told to self-isolate for 14 days, i.e. until Monday 28 September. The risk to other students and staff is considered to be low. The school has consulted Public Health Gateshead and is monitoring the situation closely. Further updates will be given if and when the situation changes. At present, students are not advised to get a test unless they show coronavirus symptoms.**

Gateshead is seeing high numbers of cases of coronavirus at present, and our region has one of the highest case numbers in the country per head of population. Lord Lawson has put a number of measures in place, including staggered break and lunch times, reorganised classrooms, restricted movement of classes, a one-way system, face coverings in communal areas, social distancing where possible, year group bubbles and frequent hand sanitising. Additional staff are on duty to help students follow the rules. We are also getting ready to teach remotely via Microsoft Teams, if this becomes necessary.

We ask parents to monitor their children very closely, and as families to observe all precautions and not to gather in social groups. Information from public health authorities in Gateshead shows that transmission is now mainly within homes and social groups, so it is essential to follow the tighter lockdown rules that have been imposed. Where students know that they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, they should self-isolate and not attend school.

Andrew Fowler  
Principal