



Marden High School

Friday 11 September 2020

Dear All,

As you are no doubt aware, earlier this week I was in touch with the Health Protection Team at Public Health England as we had confirmation that a student has tested positive for COVID-19. Our comprehensive system of controls we have in place in - students operating in 'bubbles', enhanced hygiene, the use of face coverings for everyone moving around the building, and seating plans for every lesson - allowed us to effectively identify the contacts the student had had, and they are now isolating. We worked closely with the local PHE Health Protection Team who were very helpful and it has been reassuring to see that the process we have in place and the support from the Health Protection Team so far has been very effective in preventing any wider outbreak. Following lots of planning over the summer to enhance our blended learning provision, these students can now access their school work via the Google Classroom environment, which means that if pupils are absent from school, due to general illness or are having to quarantine for 14 days, they will be able to access the same work as the other pupils in their class. It means that as long as they complete the work at home according to their normal timetable, pupils will be at the same point in their learning as others. It has been nice to receive positive feedback from parents on how well this is working already. More information on this system can be found in the 'Home Learning' link by pressing the button on our homepage.

It is worth highlighting the criteria that Public Health England and the Health Protection Teams are using to establish contacts of a person who has tested positive, as it is a good reminder for us all of maintaining respectful distancing wherever possible:

A contact is defined as any person who, during the infectious period, has had any of the following exposures:

- a person who lives with or spends significant time in the same household as a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Having direct face-to-face contact or direct physical contact with a confirmed case for any length of time
- Being less than 1m from a confirmed case for 1 minute or longer
- Being less than 2m from a confirmed case for more than 15 mins
- Travelling in a small vehicle with a confirmed case

Very sadly, there has been a distressing video of a man ending his life circulating on Tik Tok and other social media platforms, and the police have informed us that it may have been accessed by young people across our region. Please be aware that it continues to circulate and parents/carers should contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Reece, should they have any concerns about their child.

Having good communication between everyone in our school community is so very important to us, and we hope that, at least most of the time, we get it right. Good communication is an essential tool in achieving productivity and maintaining strong working relationships at all levels of our organisation and in our community. We are, therefore, very keen to continually review how effective our communication is and to enhance it wherever possible. Because of this, and because we are now operating in an environment where in particular, remote communication is increasingly important, a key element of our School Development Plan focuses on communication, and we hope that as an outcome of this work we will have as many members of our community accessing a comprehensive and varied range of media, including email, text and parent apps. To that end we would like all parents/carers to ensure that their mobile numbers and email addresses are up to date by logging on to the parent portal and checking them. If anyone has any queries or difficulties around this they should email Ms Lively at s.lively@mardenhigh.net. This will help us to get messages and information out to everyone in our community as quickly as possible.

As mentioned last week, we are obviously unable to invite people into school for our traditional Open Evening and Open Mornings, but we will very soon be launching our online 'Open' events via our website and social media called "This is Marden!" We are currently putting this together and I would be very interested to hear from current parents who might agree to us using their comments about their children's experience at Marden. So here is a link for a brief survey we have set up for parents and carers. It is quite brief, with three areas for comments (no need to fill all three) about pastoral care, academic progress and support for home learning.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9225TPD>

I would be delighted to receive feedback on these areas, and to use the comments (anonymously, of course) as part of "This is Marden!". Alternatively there may be some brave souls out there who would like to send a short video recording (maximum 20 seconds) of themselves talking about what their child enjoys about being at Marden. If anyone would like to do this, I would be happy to receive them direct to me by email.

I hope everyone has a good weekend and that we all maintain our good hand hygiene, use of face coverings where necessary, and adherence to responsible social distancing.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher