



St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

where everyone can succeed



Tel: 0191 2153260 Fax: 0191 2153279

admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk

www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk

28th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Hope you and your family are safe and well.

A further positive COVID-19 case reported in Year 8

I wanted to let you know that there has been a further positive case of COVID-19 confirmed this morning in Year 8. At present, Public Health Newcastle guidance is clear that only close contacts identified, as below, should be sent home from school. However, should this advice change, i.e. if Public Health decide that an entire year group should go home to self-isolate at any point, we will be in touch. Please be reassured, as always, that we have followed all government and Public Health guidance and protocols fully.

As a result, we are confident that we have identified all students who may have come into close contact with the confirmed case during the 48 hours before the symptoms started, as per Public Health advice. The parents/carers of these students have been contacted this morning. All of these students were also sent home from school earlier today to self-isolate. They will complete a 14 day self-isolation period from the date of their last possible contact with the confirmed case, as per government guidance. Of course, the name of the student who has tested positive for COVID-19 must remain confidential.

All other students should therefore continue to attend school as normal unless, as outlined in my previous letters:

- They develop symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell)
- Someone in their household develops symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19
- They have been advised to isolate by the NHS Test and Trace process

We will continue to inform parents immediately if their child has been identified as a possible close contact to a positive case. We will also continue to update all parents regularly regarding any further positive cases in school. However, we plan to move to an update every week or so, rather than continuing to update you after each individual case. As I am sure you will understand, all schools in Newcastle are dealing with regular confirmed positive cases at this time, as most schools are across the country. It is a challenging time for schools but we will continue to follow all government and Public Health guidance fully and also keep you regularly updated.

A reminder that if your child develops any symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home and arrangements should be made for him/her to be tested. At that time, all other household members must also stay at home, not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise. If your child does develop the above symptoms, they must remain at home until a negative test for COVID-19 is received. Please let the school know immediately should your child test positive for COVID-19. Further information and support is available at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus).

Finally, despite the challenges that COVID-19 brings in school, St Mary's remains a very happy and positive place. The students have shown incredible maturity in their approach to all of the new health and safety routines and have returned this term with a real sense of purpose and commitment to their studies. There continues to be a lovely atmosphere in school and we will continue to ensure that all students are fully supported in reaching their full potential.

Thank you for your ongoing support and many best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Patterson
Headteacher