



St Mary's Catholic School

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where everyone can succeed



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Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you again for your support since the start of term.

Unfortunately, as you know, the level of COVID-19 in the North East, including in Newcastle upon Tyne, continues to be high at this time. Therefore, all Secondary Schools are dealing with regular confirmed positive cases. Since I wrote to you last Monday, there have been 5 further positive student cases of COVID-19 at St Mary's. This includes one student in Year 7, one student in Year 9, two students in Year 10 and one student in Year 11. We have also had our first staff positives cases, with two members of staff testing positive over the last week. As always, we have followed all Public Health guidance and protocols fully and we continue to liaise with Newcastle Public Health on a very regular basis to ensure our follow-up and health and safety measures are robust and effective.

As a result, we are confident that we have identified all students who may have come into close contact with the confirmed cases during the 48 hours before the symptoms started, as per Public Health advice. The parents/carers of these students were contacted immediately and all of these students were sent home from school 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 the guidance. Of course, the names of the students who have 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.

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.

Many best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Patterson
Headteacher