

30th November 2020

Dear Parents,

We have been advised by Public health England of several confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst staff and students in the last two weeks. We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and work 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 (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The small number of children who have been in close contact with the individuals who have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have received a letter informing them that their child must stay at home for 14 days.

After careful evaluation and consultation, we now feel that in order to minimise the risk to our whole school community it will be necessary for **all year 8, 9 and 10 students to study from home from tomorrow Tuesday 1st December until Friday 11th December**. They should return to school on Monday 14th December. We will provide online learning for students to continue their education at home. Please visit our website for more information.

Given that the students will be at home for at least ten days, this greatly reduces the risk of the virus spreading within school, if there are other unknown cases or students incubating infection in this group.

The **school remains open for students in years 7 and 11** and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. Year 7 students will follow their normal timetable and year 11 students will be doing a mixture of mock exams and normal lessons.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their continuing support for the school during these challenging times. We believe that your support is vital in relation to this matter. On the next 2 pages of this letter you will find guidance on how to spot the symptoms of Covid and what to do if your child/ren has symptoms.

We will keep the situation under review and I will write to you again if there are any further developments.

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Head of School: Sarah Morgan

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Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Robinson
Executive Headteacher

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school 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 14 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 14 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.

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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/>

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