



3rd December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 URGENT

I am writing to inform you that we have had more confirmed cases of Covid-19 in our school community. We have had two more cases in Year 11 and two more cases in our 6th form. This does not affect the isolation period for Year 11 or 6th Form. Whilst students are self-isolating they legally must not leave the house for any reason.

Year 9 must self-isolate until Saturday 5th December and must return to school on Monday 7th December.

Year 7 and the 6th Form must self-isolate until Monday 14th December and must return to school on Tuesday 15th December.

Year 10 and Year 11 must self-isolate until Sunday 13th December and must return to school on Monday 14th December.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England and although we have seen a rise in cases these are still comparatively low. 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.

All students in Years 7, 9, 10, 11 and 6th form must follow their normal school timetable online – this includes mentor time. If you have concerns about accessing on line lessons please contact Mrs Land.

The school remains open to all Year 8 students who are not self-isolating and these students should continue to attend as normal if they remain well and are showing no Covid related symptoms.

Please be assured that we are following all government guidance and advice from Public Health England to minimise the risk of our students. The DFE have asked us to remind you of the following advice:

Please do not send students to school if they have Covid symptoms. Students with symptoms must stay at home and be tested.

If students develop symptoms or are getting tested, please inform Mrs Bartholomew immediately as we have to inform the DFE and Public Health England of every case. We will need to know what the symptoms are, when they first started and the date of the test.



HANDS:

- Staff and students must wash hands or hand sanitise regularly throughout the day (On arrival, entering a new building, at the end of break and at the end of lunch).

FACE:

- All students and staff are required to wear masks/ face coverings in enclosed spaces, including in classrooms during lessons.

SPACE:

- Students must not touch each other
- Students must maintain at least 1 metre distance where possible and 2 metres in communal areas.
- Students must maintain a 2 metre distance from staff at all times

Please remind your child that they must not mix with students outside of school - this includes on the way to school and on the way home from school. Students from different bubbles must not car share.

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)

Please also look out for unusual headaches and migraines.

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

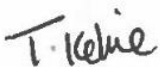
- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for your continued support during this very challenging time

Kind regards



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