

18th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to update you on the current situation regarding positive COVID-19 cases within the school community. Unfortunately, we have had a number of cases within the past week and these have involved both students and members of staff. The majority of cases have been isolated and we have been able to identify close contacts on each occasion. However, there are currently two cases in Year 9 and this has led to a significant number of students being required to self-isolate.

As with all cases, we are continuing to work closely with local health protection teams and Public Health England. **Having assessed the current situation, including the difficulties related to staffing levels, we have made the difficult decision to ask all other students in Year 9 to remain at home from Thursday 19th November until Thursday 26th November. All learning will take place online during this time.** Students who have previously been asked to self-isolate should do so until the date they have been advised.

The school remains open for all other year groups and these students should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

Please note that the school will be closed to all students on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th November for our annual Staff Conference. Students should return to school on **Monday 30th November** providing they remain well.

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.

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

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.

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/>

Thank you for your continued support during this challenging period. Please contact your child's Year Leader if you have any specific concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Mullings
Headteacher