

14th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to provide a further update that is in addition to my letter that was sent on Friday.

Unfortunately, it has now been confirmed that several members of the school community (including members of staff) have tested positive for COVID-19 over the weekend. This includes more than one case within the Year 11 bubble. Mrs Bashford-Hynes will be contacting all parents of students in Year 11 this evening via a separate email to outline arrangements for this year group for the remainder of the week.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child.

The children who have been in close contact with the individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 have been contacted by a senior member of staff informing them that their child must stay at home for 10 days.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

You may already be aware from reports in the media that the self-isolation period for individuals who have been in contact with someone with symptoms of COVID-19 or someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 has been reduced from 14 days to 10 days. This change came into effect at 12.01am this morning. It has also been confirmed that this change affects individuals who are currently self-isolating.

The full Gov.uk statement, including the rationale for this change, can be found [\[here\]](#).

There are a relatively small number of students who are currently self-isolating (for the original 14 day period). Given this I have asked our team in Student Services to contact each family to discuss their child's amended return to school date.

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.

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 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 10-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 10 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

- 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gary Mullings', written in a cursive style.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher