

10th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Unfortunately, we have become aware that a support member of staff has tested positive from COVID-19.

It is important that I confirm the virus was not contracted at the academy and the member of staff has not had any 'direct close contact' with any students.

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.

As a school, ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and the wider school community has been our absolutely priority. As a result, we have closely followed all Government guidance and have implemented all possible safety measures and protocols to ensure everyone's safety and to limit the transmission of any virus.

Following advice from Public Health England the school remains open and providing your child remains well they can continue to attend school as normal.

I completely appreciate and understand that there are already some inevitable anxieties about returning to school, given the current circumstances we find ourselves in. However, I would like to reassure you that we are doing all we can to ensure everyone's safety and will be continuing to closely follow and implement advice from the experts to maintain this. It is important that students, staff and the wider school community remain vigilant and continue to uphold the various safety protocols in place both within school but also when out in the wider community.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared and should arrange to have a **test** for COVID-19. Even if the test is negative, they should continue to self-isolate for the remainder of that period.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

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.

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 to, 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:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> 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

If there are any further updates we will inform you immediately, but if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact the academy and we will be able to support.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and understanding – it is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



W R Hughes
Principal.