

Letter to all school students / parents / guardians and staff

Date 12.11.20

Dear Parents,

We have been advised that there have been a further two confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school community.

The positive cases, two members of staff, last attended the academy on Friday 6th and Monday 9th November and they have been self-isolating at home since. On this occasion there are no direct contacts who need to self-isolate as a precautionary measure.

Our zoning of students in their Year groups, wearing masks in communal areas, enhanced cleaning, fogging/disinfecting all rooms every week and staff following our rigorous health & safety protocols have allowed us all to continue working safely. We are working extremely hard to ensure that this continues to be the case in what are extremely challenging times for our wider community.

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. All positive cases reported to the academy have resulted from the increasing infection rates within the community and not from transmission within the academy.

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.

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. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

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

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 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.

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.

Please:

- 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 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/>

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



Mr Rod Hughes
Principal