

September 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s):

Last night and today, I have been in consultation with Public Health England (PHE), who were very complimentary with regard to our proactive response and who have confirmed that our approach to identifying 'close contacts' is well conceived. Through this process, we have identified 47 students and, as I write, telephone calls are being made and messages are being sent to ensure that the parents/carers of these students understand the situation and the need to self-isolate for 14 days (from the last potential contact). There are also four members of staff who will self-isolate for this period. The other 212 students in the year group can, therefore, return to school from tomorrow.

I have shared all of our risk assessment and policy-based information with PHE, who appreciated the level of detail. The checklist completed indicated that all control measures employed were comprehensive and appropriate to the context.

Clearly, the incidence of COVID-19 in the local area is increasing and several other local schools have been dealing with confirmed cases. We continue to revise our approaches and control measures in response to the circumstances and this has recently included a more structured way of guiding students to lessons after break and lunch periods and increasing further the overall level of supervision at these times. Nevertheless, we would now strongly recommend that your son/daughter wears a protective face mask around the school during these busier periods. The Government advises against the use of face masks for students in lessons and we continue to follow this line.

It is important that face masks, when worn, are clean and that they are handled appropriately. Students should have a secure plastic bag in which they can store their face mask when it's not in use. When handling the face mask, hands should be clean and it is important to handle the mask using the straps, in order to avoid contamination. The use of sanitisers around the site and in classrooms continues to play a very important part in keeping the school environment safe.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely



Stuart Jones
Executive Headteacher