

11 November 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Today we have become aware of a student in year 7 having tested positive for COVID-19. The student concerned experienced symptoms on the evening of Monday 09 November. They were tested yesterday and the test came back positive today.

As the student concerned was in school on Monday (during the 48 hour period before the onset of symptoms), we have immediately worked through the procedure for identifying 'close contacts', as required by Public Health England (PHE). As this is the second case in this year group, and (on that day) the students in year 7 spent all but one of their lessons taught in their tutor group, we have followed advice in asking the tutor group to self-isolate. We have also asked several other 'close contacts' to do the same. On this occasion, we have also identified one member of staff (a teaching assistant), who will also need to self-isolate.

The students (and the member of staff) have been informed that they need to stay at home for 14 days - counting on from their last potential contact on Monday 9 November. They will return to school on Tuesday 24 November.

Household members of these students do not need to self-isolate, unless they begin to develop symptoms themselves. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are the recent onset of:

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

Please also note that symptoms for children/young people can include:

- nasal congestion or runny nose
- sore throat
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- diarrhea
- nausea or vomiting
- stomach ache
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle or body aches

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

If you, or your child, develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned, or symptoms are worsening, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

Whether they are self-isolating or not, please remember that if your son/daughter does develop symptoms, then they should get a test (which can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119) and:

- if the test is negative, remain in isolation for the rest of the 14-day period;
- if the test is positive, inform the school immediately and isolate for at least ten days from the onset of the symptoms (which could mean, for students already self-isolating) that the self-isolation period ends before, or after, the end of the 14-day period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when they first had symptoms. 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 students who will be self-isolating will have a full programme of work and lessons managed through the use of the 'Show My Homework' platform and through Microsoft Teams.

As we are sure you are aware, in these circumstances, it is important that any information that relates to an individual student is treated with discretion and sensitivity. Bearing this in mind, we would appreciate it if you could reinforce to your son/daughter how important it is for social media to be used responsibly.

For your information, we also became aware today of a positive test result for a student in year 9. The student in question developed symptoms on Sunday evening and has, of course, not been in school since then. The whole family became unwell over the weekend and some others in the family have also tested positive. As the student was not in school during the 48-hour period before the onset of symptoms, no students or staff are expected to self-isolate.

Thank you for your continued support over this difficult time. We will, of course, continue to keep you well-informed of any developments.

Sincerely:



Stuart Jones
Executive Headteacher



Nicola Mason
Head of School