

6 November 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s):

We are writing to inform you that we were told today of a further confirmed case – a student in Year 11, who has tested positive for COVID-19. The student concerned developed symptoms on Tuesday (3 November), and had been in school on the first two days of this week. A test was done on Wednesday and the test result came back today.

As the student concerned was in school 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). (We have been in contact with the National Health Service (NHS) Business Services Authority today, who have been commissioned to offer advice on PHE's behalf).

Close contacts are defined as people who (within this period) have had:

- face-to-face contact with an affected individual, within a one metre distance, over any period of time (including: having a face-to-face conversation; being coughed on; or having skin-to-skin contact); or
- extended contact with an affected individual, within a two metre distance, for over 15 minutes; or
- a journey with an affected individual, in a small vehicle (such as a car).

Consequently, the 30 students who have been in close contact with the individual concerned have been informed that they need to stay at home for 14 days (counting on from the end of Tuesday 3 November) – they will return to school on Wednesday 18 November. There are no members of staff who will also need to self-isolate. Please note that this student did not use school transport.

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)

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

If you or 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, 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.

Thank you for your continued support over this difficult time. There has recently been a marked increase in the incidence of COVID-19 locally and there is also an increase in the number of confirmed cases in schools and we take very seriously the safety and welfare of all members of the school community. Nevertheless, consistent with the Government's agenda, we will continue to do our best to offer a high quality of education, recognising the importance of this for our students' futures. We will, of course, continue to keep you well-informed of any developments.

Sincerely:



Stuart Jones
Executive Headteacher



Nicola Mason
Head of School