



## Coronavirus (COVID19) - 17 September

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Dear Parents

We have been made aware of a small number of **possible** COVID-19 cases in Year 13 and Year 8.

As a precautionary measure Public Health England (PHE) has advised us that, all Year 13 students and pupils in 8S and 8R, will not be able to attend school tomorrow, Friday 18 September. As I am sure you can appreciate, we must act quickly to minimise risk to others in the school community.

The reason that we are asking these groups of students not to attend school tomorrow is that they may have been in contact with a possible case of COVID-19. It is important to stress that **there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19** from anyone attending school, however, there are a number of pupils in years 8 and 13 who are possibly displaying COVID-19 symptoms and are awaiting test results and we can't be sure whether the pupils who are unwell do have COVID-19 or not. At this stage there is nothing extra you need to do.

I would like to reassure you that this measure is precautionary. We very much hope to be able to welcome back all students on Monday. However, in the interests of everyone's safety, we will only be able to bring back students once we are informed of all of the test results and have had a further meeting with Public Health England and the Local Authority. Unfortunately, the decision-making has been onerous and complex due to the problems with the testing process.

We will, of course, endeavour to minimise disruption to learning which I know is of great concern to everyone.

As a school, we are continuing to do our very best to put in place measures to ensure the safety of every member of the school community which includes deep cleaning at the end of the day and a further cleaning of classrooms and corridors at least once during the school day as well as regular cleaning of touch points throughout the day following the guidance for the cleaning of non-health care settings. A reminder that our [Welcome Back Guide](#) gives a clear overview of the significant changes we have put in place this term which we determined in response to the latest government guidance and built on the protective measures put in place in March when we remained open to support vulnerable children and the children of Key Workers.

Public Health England has asked me to remind the School community that someone should only request a test if they are displaying COVID-19 symptoms: a new continuous cough and/or high temperature and/or loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell.

The current guidance states that if anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough and/or high temperature and/or loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell, they should be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19 guidance for households with positive coronavirus infection by self-isolating for 14 days. To help reduce the risk to you and anyone you live with from getting ill, please remember to:

- 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

We will, of course, keep you updated. We very much hope to bring students back into school as soon as possible and I will inform parents on Sunday evening whether those students who have been affected should attend school on Monday. None of us wanted to be in this situation, but we must respond to the guidance as we receive it.

Thank you for your continued support.

Matthew Morgan,  
Headmaster

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