



Important information regarding attendance at School tomorrow, Friday 18 September 2020

Dear Parents

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We have been made aware of a small number of **possible** COVID-19 cases in Year 13. As a precautionary measure Public Health England (PHE) has advised us that all Year 13 students should not attend school tomorrow. I realise this is very late notice and apologise for the inconvenience I know this is likely to cause but as you can appreciate we must act quickly to minimise risk to others in the school community.

The reason that we are asking you not to send your son/daughter into school tomorrow is that they may have been in contact with one of these possible cases. It is important to stress that there have been **no confirmed cases** of COVID-19 connected to the school, but some students are displaying possible COVID-19 symptoms and are awaiting test results. At this stage there is nothing extra you need to do.

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

This precautionary measure has been taken in order to try to minimise the disruption to learning that I know is of great concern to everyone. As a school, we are doing our very best to continue to put in place necessary measures to ensure the safety of every member of the School community. This includes deep cleaning at the end of the day and a further cleaning of classrooms and corridors at least once during the school day, and regular cleaning of touch points throughout the day with appropriate disinfectant following the guidance for the cleaning of non-health care settings.

Please revisit our Welcome Back Guide which gives a clear overview of the significant changes we have put in place, which provides details on

- Amendments to the structure and timing of the school day
- Assigned entry and exit points to each year group
- Students remaining in 'year group bubbles', with limited movement around the site
- The one-way system around the school site to avoid face-to-face contact between year group bubbles

along with the protective measures put in place for staff and pupils from March including:

- reviewing our detailed risk assessments regularly
- promoting regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap throughout the day
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach
- minimising contact and reducing mixing between groups of pupils
- asking everyone to practise social distancing where possible.

Testing for COVID-19

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

Setting of work / Remote learning

Work will be set for your son/daughter on Satchel One and where possible teachers will deliver Teams sessions following a student's normal school timetable.

We very much hope to bring students back into school as soon as possible and will inform parents on Sunday evening whether students 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.

We will of course, let you know if the situation changes.

Yours sincerely



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Headmaster

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