



**12<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

We have been advised that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school. We have had one member of staff and one student who have tested positive. Unfortunately, students in all year group bubbles, with the exception of Post-16, and a small number of staff, may have been in close contact with the affected cases.

We have therefore had to take the decision to ask all students in Years 7-11 to self-isolate for 14 days. We have not taken this decision lightly, and are incredibly disappointed that we have not been able to keep more students in school. However, we must make decisions in the interests of the safety and wellbeing of our community and so we must minimise the risk of transmission.

In line with the national guidance we recommend that your child now stays at home and self-isolates until Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020. Your child must not go to school or any public areas: your child must remain at home. Further details of what your child needs to do are in NHS Guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youve-been-in-contact-with-a-person-who-has-coronavirus/>

We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community. If you need support with isolation, please contact your local Council.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the self-isolation period.

If your child is well at the end of the period of self-isolation, then they can return to usual activities. The school has a planned INSET day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, followed by half term, so your child will be due back in school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

## **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

For most people, especially children, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or



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- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. At that time all other household members must also stay at home, not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus)

If your child tests negative for COVID-19, they should still continue to isolate until 22<sup>nd</sup> October, they should not return to school. If they test positive, please follow the NHS advice.

### How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- 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

While at home and well, we expect all students to engage in their remote learning. All work is available on Google Classroom and, if you have elected to receive hard copies of work for your child, they will receive these in the next few days.

Thank you for your understanding and support. We will send out further guidance on remote learning in a separate email, and we keep the Parents and Students sections of our website up to date with essential advice and resources.

Yours sincerely

D McGloin  
Headteacher