

8 September 2020

Dear Parents

As you will have seen in the news over the last two days the rate of infection of COVID-19 has increased significantly. It is important to note that this is unlikely to be linked to school openings, but more likely a reduction in social distancing in the last few weeks of the holidays and the increase in foreign travel. The opening of schools, however, will provide additional challenges in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

It is likely that at least some families and students will come into contact with individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and equally as winter approaches general illnesses tend to be more prevalent.

As clarification, any student displaying symptoms should self-isolate and should be tested for COVID-19. If someone in a household is displaying symptoms, the entire household should self-isolate. Instructions on what to look for before booking a test are below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-from-phe-and-nhs-test-and-trace-to-school-and-college-leaders/letter-from-phe-and-nhs-test-and-trace-to-school-and-college-leaders>

“To ensure we identify those with coronavirus while avoiding a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms, we ask that you recommend to your pupils, students and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if:

- *they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:*
- *a high temperature*
- *a new, continuous cough*
- *the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell, or*
- *they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse)”*

If you undertake a COVID-19 test please inform the academy immediately of the results of the test and then follow this guidance:

1. “If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
2. If someone tests positive, they should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.”

If someone in your family comes into contact with an individual with COVID-19, they should self-isolate but, the rest of the family do not need to self-isolate unless the family member develops COVID-19 symptoms. Please remember that other illnesses exist as well and students who feel unwell will not necessarily have COVID-19.

It is important that students minimise the risk to themselves and others, the students have adapted to the cleaning and sanitising that takes place at every lesson, may I ask parents to reinforce the needs for social distancing when travelling to school and the use of face masks on buses and trains. It has been fantastic to have all students back in school for the last two weeks and the work in lessons has been excellent, we just need to ensure that this can continue indefinitely and parental support in following the attached guidance is critical in achieving this.

Best wishes



David Collins
Headteacher