

17th March 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Re: Lateral Flow Testing – positive cases

Over the past two weeks, we have been working hard to complete the three lateral flow (LFD) tests for every consenting student that government guidance requires us to do. During our final round of testing today, two students returned positive results without having shown any COVID-19 symptoms themselves.

As I have said previously, given that the whole purpose of these asymptomatic tests, is to identify where the virus may exist without anyone's knowledge, this does not come as a surprise. Personally, I felt reassured knowing that the system works.

Upon being informed of these results, we immediately made contact with both Public Health England and the DfE and have followed their advice and guidance regarding next steps, including identifying anyone who might be considered a 'close contact'. There were no additional actions we were required to take with regard to how the school operates and John O'Gaunt remains safe to attend.

All students and staff who have been in close contact with those who returned a positive LFD test result have already been contacted. The school remains open as usual for all other students. **Therefore, if you have not been contacted then your child should be in school** and continue to follow normal attendance procedures. I would politely remind you that attendance in school is now mandatory, unless your child is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (or 'CEV' - you will have received a letter about this through the NHS), unwell or self-isolating.

We know that you may find this news concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation, working closely with Public Health England. Please can I respectfully request that you have a conversation with your son/daughter to reassure them and reiterate that no blame should be attached to any individuals for what has happened.

Whenever there are suspected cases of COVID-19, Public Health England encourage schools to publish advice and information about it and I have set this out below.

Over the next few days, and having completed all three in-school tests for all consenting students, we will be distributing the home LFD test kits in line with DfE guidance. We will be in touch with you again soon with information regarding these. If anything changes in school, we will of course contact you again as well.

In the meantime, please do contact the school if you have any queries and keep yourselves and your families safe and in good health.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R Hawthorne
Head of School

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 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 household isolation period includes the day the first person in your household's symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, your 10 day isolation period starts on the 15th of the month, your isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25th and you can return to your normal routine.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are 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 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 about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

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

Do

- 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

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>