

18th March 2021

Dear parent/carer,

Re: Self-isolation as a close contact

As you know, we were informed that two students in Year 9 returned positive LFD test results yesterday. Neither student displayed any symptoms but given that these were tests specifically designed to identify the virus in asymptomatic people, this does not come as a surprise.

Upon hearing of these test outcomes, we acted swiftly, seeking advice from Public Health England and following their advice and that of the DfE. Part of this was, as you will know, identifying those who may have been close contacts. We did this by consulting with staff members and using class seating plans in accordance with the advice we were given. Having identified that your child may have been in close contact with one of the students, your child must stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the 17th March 2021 up to and including Saturday 27th March 2021. For your child, this means they can go out from Sunday 28th March 2021 and should return to school on Monday 29th March 2021, assuming they have not developed symptoms of COVID-19.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided that no-one in the household develops symptoms within the 10-day self-isolation period.

Please see the link below to 'Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person' taken from the .GOV website, and some other information and links that you may find helpful.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

Remote learning:

For the duration of your child's isolation period, they should continue to follow their normal timetable and complete work, which will be set via Class Charts. We have asked staff, wherever possible, to invite isolating students to live lessons via Teams, or to set work with some live narration to help students access the work. However, as I am sure you will appreciate, this is not always possible whilst also teaching in school at the same time.

In the first 48 hours of isolation, if their teacher has not been able to set specific work, we have placed some generic work for each subject on our website, which can be found here: <http://www.johnogauntschool.co.uk/223/remote-learning-and-work>. We know that this work cannot replace the high quality lesson work that you should expect to see, but I am sure that you will understand our using it whilst we move to blended learning approaches following such an unexpected event as we now find ourselves in.

Advice from Public Health England:

What to do if you develop symptoms of COVID 19

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, you should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when your symptoms first appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 .

People who do not have symptoms should not request a test unless this has been specifically requested by Public Health England or the local authority. 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'. The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

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 to, 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. Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Symptoms of COVID 19

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

- new continuous cough and/or;
- high temperature and/or;
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If you do 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 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/>

I hope that this information makes sense but please do not hesitate to contact the school if not. In the meantime, my apologies for any disruption this may cause for you and your family and please stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R Hawthorne
Head of School