

5th July 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Re: COVID-19 confirmed case

I am writing to inform you that we have learned of a positive PCR test within our student population.

Upon hearing of these test outcomes, we acted swiftly, following guidance from Public Health England and the DfE. Part of this was 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 guidance we have been given. Based on the information we currently have there are no additional actions we are 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 identified as a close contact in school 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 mandatory, unless your child is unwell or self-isolating from advice received outside of school (i.e. contacted as a close contact elsewhere).

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.

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,



Richard Hawthorne
Head of School

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS OF COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 they need to stay at home and self-isolate immediately and get a test through <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. Your household needs to isolate too. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

If your child tests positive, your child and household need to continue isolating for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared (or date of their positive test if they do not have symptoms). Add your child's details to NHS Test and Trace and inform the school/educational setting so that other close contacts can be identified and advised to isolate.

The isolation period includes the day their symptoms started and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month, the isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25th. In the absence of symptoms, the isolation would start from the date the test was taken and continue for ten days after this. If the person does not have symptoms when testing positive but goes on to develop symptoms, the isolation is extended for ten days after the onset of symptoms as explained [here](#) (in the "if you tested positive" section). If other household members become unwell they need to extend their isolation period.

If your child does not get tested they will need to isolate with the household and support bubble for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

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.

Symptoms of COVID 19

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

- A new continuous cough and/or
- A 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 your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-COVID-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> 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:

- 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.

- Participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over).

Further Information

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-COVID-19/>

Further information on rapid lateral flow tests are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Guidance in different languages: [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-19-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-infection)

