CM/NC

16th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

After two weeks of no positive cases of COVID-19 within the student body, you will now be aware that this week we have had a number of confirmed cases split across all year groups except Year 8.

My apologies in the delay in getting this summary out to you, usually it would have been sent soon after the close contact students' families were notified. However, it has not been possible this time due to the time it has taken to track and trace and then adjust our forms of learning, leading well into Monday and Tuesday evenings.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week we were notified of 6 positive case within our student body; two in Year 7, one in Year 9, one in Year 10, one in Year 11 and one in Year 12.

In addition, we have had 5 positive tests confirmed within the staff body and as of today 22 staff are now self-isolating; a few of these are linked to being in close proximity of staff members that have tested positive and others are due to family members showing symptoms. Through our track and trace systems in school, only one student has had to self-isolate due to being in close contact with a member of staff. The 5 positive tests are spread across several departments.

As of today, we have the following number self-isolating:

- 83 Students in Year 7
- 33 Students in Year 11
- 10 Students in Year 12

On Tuesday of this week, we had to move to remote learning for all students in Years 9 and 10 until the end of Thursday, as we did not have enough staff to cover classes in school and this then became a Health & Safety issue. Within the Year 9 remote learning we have 26 that are self-isolating and within the Year 10 remote leaning we have 64 self-isolating.

All of the students that are self-isolating have different end dates, with the last one being Monday 21st December 2020 as their final day of isolation.

You will be aware from the local news that this week in Buckinghamshire over 6000 school children are having to self-isolate. Although there is clearly an increase in cases locally the school remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well and are in either Year 7, 8, 11, 12 or 13, as required by the Government.

We urge all of our families to maintain a very high level of vigilance throughout this period and continue to keep in good contact with the school.

With best wishes

Mrs McLintock
Headteacher
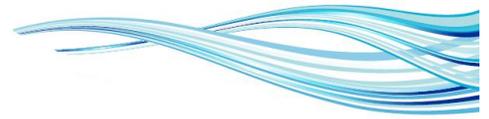
What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

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 testing and this can be arranged via NHS 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 by clicking here.

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, 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 or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 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 is available from the NHS by clicking here