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Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope and trust that you and your family remain well. We are writing further to our [letter of 22 September](#) to update you with information about the COVID-19 cases in school. We are doing everything within our power and influence to help mitigate the risk of coronavirus transmission within our community, and to ensure that your children continue to attend school safely. Sharing the following information with you is an important part of this effort: we want to ensure that you are informed, are aware of appropriate advice on how to continue to support your child, and are reassured that the safety of our students and their families, and indeed our staff, is paramount.

In the last ten days, we have been made aware of 29 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the College, amongst students and staff. As of writing, a further 8 students and staff are awaiting the results of PCR tests after having tested positive through their asymptomatic LFD tests. Students and staff who have tested positive are isolating. We remain open, and providing your child remains well, they can continue to attend school.

We have been in contact with the Department for Education (DfE), Public Health England (PHE), the South West Health Protection Team (SWHPT) and the UK Health Security Agency (UKSHA) to discuss the current outbreak and to undertake a risk assessment. As there are no concerns regarding hospitalisations, and as these increases are not to be unexpected given the national removal of restrictions on 16 August and the increase in cases in the region, we have been advised by all respective agencies to continue to implement the outbreak control measures we are currently implementing (please see sections 1.3 and 4.3 of our [COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan](#)). We have also been advised to share with you another 'warn and inform' communication from the NHS, which we append to the end of this letter in full. Furthermore, we outline below a set of **important measures** that the UKSHA have recommended we invoke in addition to the measures we already have in place, and which we ask you to support:

- **All students and staff to increase LFD testing at home from two to at least three times a week.**
 - ⇒ We would recommend that tests are taken on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings.
 - ⇒ Please report results, whether positive or negative, to us via [this form](#).
 - ⇒ If the LFD test is positive, a PCR test should be [arranged](#) and taken within two days.
 - If the PCR test is positive, or if a PCR test is not taken within two days of the LFD test, the person must isolate for ten days (day 1 being the day after the positive LFD test).
 - If the PCR test is taken within 2 days and is negative, the person can return to school.
 - ⇒ (Please remember that anyone who has already tested positive for COVID-19 should not undertake any test within 90 days of their positive test, unless they exhibit any new coronavirus symptoms.)

- **If a student or adult in the school believes they are a contact of someone who has tested positive, they should arrange and take a 'one off' PCR test.**
 - ⇒ This will allow us and UKHSA to screen the school population and monitor the transmission rates in the coming weeks. (Please note that a student who believes they are a contact of a positive case can still attend school while they await the results of their PCR test.)
- **All students and staff to wear face coverings in communal areas.**
 - ⇒ You are aware we are doing this already, but we repeat the UKHSA's recommendation here for emphasis, and to ask you again to please reiterate the importance of this with your children, as we have, and as we will do so again.
- **Undertake meetings remotely or in well-ventilated spaces with assured social distancing.**
 - ⇒ Again, this is something we are already doing for the most part, but include the recommendation here for your understanding, in case you are affected.

In addition to these recommendations, we have decided that we will also do the following:

- If a student tests positive (PCR) test, parent/carers [complete this form](#).
- We will then inform the families of any student identified in this form as a possible contact that their child has possibly been a contact of a positive case, and thus advise them, as per the UKHSA recommendation, to take a PCR test. (Again, in such circumstances, the student will not be expected to isolate, unless s/he is displaying symptoms.)

These recommendations will be kept under review by the UKHSA, in liaison with us. We will be looking again at the situation with them next week to review the case numbers and the additional measures we have shared with you today. To this end, it is very important that we have accurate data through which we can engage with UKHSA effectively, so please do remember to report LFD test results to us via [this form](#), and inform us of details regarding any PCR positive case via [this form](#).

Thank you very much, again, for your ongoing support. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information, clarification, advice, or support.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Griffiths and Rebecca Mullins
(Associate Principals).

Advice to All Parents: NHS 'Warn and Inform' Letter

Dear Parents, carers, and guardians,

We know that you may find the outbreak of cases at the College concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. The College remains open, and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. We encourage household members that are aged 11 and over to continue with LFD testing at least three times a week for the period of our response to the outbreak to help identify cases promptly, before returning to twice weekly testing at a future date (to be confirmed).

If you think your child is a close contact but has not have not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace please follow the guidance:

<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/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person#i-think-i-have-had-contact-with-someone-who-has-tested-positive-for-covid-19-but-i-have-not-been-notified-and-advised-to-self-isolate-what-should-i-do>

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If the child has a positive test result but do not have [symptoms](#), they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result)

From 16 August, [you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19](#) and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, [you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible](#).

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate as household contact of a someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing and someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Please read the [stay at home guidance](#) which provides information on this.

Household members who are not exempt from isolation as close contacts 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.

You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace. You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

Those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

Instructions for household contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 16 August

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#). As well as getting a PCR test, you may also consider:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- wearing a face covering for those aged 11 and over in crowded places such as school and on public transport
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in [regular LFD testing](#)

You should follow this advice while the person in your household with COVID-19 is self-isolating.

If you are a health or social care worker or a student undertaking a work placement who has been identified as a household contact and are exempt from self-isolation, there is [additional guidance available](#) that you should follow to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 in these settings.

If you develop [symptoms](#) at any time, even if these are mild, self-isolate immediately, [arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test](#) and follow the [guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms](#).

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 coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 18 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now and 16-17 year olds are being offered 1 dose of the vaccination by 23 August
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- 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
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further Information

Further information is available at

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