



30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Sixth Form Students – NHS Covid-19 APP**

The NHS COVID-19 app ('the app') is a key part of the country's ongoing coronavirus response, aiming to extend the speed, precision, and reach of the NHS Test and Trace in England. The app will complement the overall service by automating some aspects of the process of contact tracing. Working together, NHS Test and Trace and the app are designed to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) by alerting people who may have been exposed to infection so that they can take action.

The app is available to download, if you have not done so already, for anyone aged 16 and over if they choose to do so. For some young people, particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), parents will need to decide whether or not their use of the app is appropriate.

This will mean that students in Year 12 and above are eligible to use the app and benefit from its features.

The app has 6 key features that will help to reduce personal and public risk:

- Trace – alerts the individual if they were in close contact with a confirmed case
- Alert – provides the individual with the risk level associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) in their local area, based on the postcode district they enter
- Check in – allows the individual to check in to locations via the app and official NHS QR codes
- Symptoms – allows the individual to check symptoms against government guidance and to get advice
- Test – allows the individual to order a free test and to receive results and advice via the app
- Isolate – provides an isolation 'companion', which counts down how many days they have left to isolate and provides links to useful advice

Bluetooth needs to be enabled on the phone as the app uses Bluetooth low energy to anonymously assess the distance, over time, between people who have downloaded it.

In the event of a confirmed case in the school community, the app does not replace our existing measures (contacting the DfE and Public Health England to report and get the latest advice, identifying close contacts using seating plans and information from staff and students). The app complements, rather than replaces, existing processes.

#### **What if your child is notified of a close contact via the app?**

It is possible that students could receive a notification via the app that they have been in close contact with a confirmed case and should therefore self-isolate. Close contacts are likely to have taken place at least 1-2 days previously. The app uses the minimum amount of personal data possible, which means it will not know if that contact took place at school.

In this scenario, students must inform a member of staff (Mr Bowers, Miss Bourne, Mrs Ahmed or Mr Hudson). To support this, the notification itself will advise them that if they are under the age of 18, they should show a message to a trusted adult and self-isolate. If the student is at school, the staff member will then make appropriate arrangements for the student to leave school at the earliest opportunity to begin self-isolation. Remote work can be accessed through the TEAMS portal and learning should not stop. Students in isolation should email their class teacher with any learning barriers and we shall do our utmost to erase these and clam any fears of getting left behind.

No further action is needed unless the student goes on to become a confirmed case themselves.

### **What about the rules regarding mobile phones for sixth form?**

Students in the sixth form are permitted to carry a mobile phone with them at all times. We recommend that contact tracing is left on at all times when the mobile phone is on their person (including in their bag). If the student moves away from their phone for a period of time (e.g. during a practical PE lesson) then contact tracing would be paused.

The rules around the use of mobile phones on site remains the same:

- Use of mobile phones is restricted to sixth form areas only. Around the rest of the site, mobile phones should be out of sight.
- Mobile phones should not be used in lessons, unless specifically permitted by the class teacher.

### **Where can I find out more?**

An information pack for parents, further information about the app, and frequently asked questions are available on the [NHS COVID-19 app website](#).

Thank you for your continued support and huge effort at this time of uncertainty, if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Darren Turner

Executive Principal