



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your patience and support today. As you know, we have been in discussion with Public Health England, the Local Authority and the Department for Education to agree the best course of action and I can now confirm that we have jointly taken the decision to partially close the school for two weeks from today, Monday 12th October. We will therefore fully reopen the school to all students on Monday 2nd November, after half term, providing that they are asymptomatic and are not still within an isolation period.

It is crucial that when we return to school on Monday 2nd November 2020 that you keep your child at home if they have any symptoms of Covid-19, or they are self-isolating due to other members of the household having symptoms/is being tested or if your child is awaiting the result of a Covid-19 test.

As a reminder, the most common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

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

If your child develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. Please also inform us of this. At that time all other household members must also stay at home, not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise.

As you are aware, this difficult decision follows a rise in reported cases of coronavirus within our local community, including students and staff who have either tested positive, live with family members who have, or they are isolating while awaiting test results.

The school remains open to students living with key workers and to those who are vulnerable. Today, we have been able to immediately switch to remote learning and live lessons for students who are at home, and this has been working well. Our aim is, of course, to reduce any negative impact on their learning as much as feasibly possible.

Whilst students are at home, we will be regularly checking in on their welfare and ensuring that they are engaging in remote learning. Additionally, if your child(ren) are eligible for free school meals, please contact us at office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk so we can arrange for a food package to be made available.

In order for us to remain fully aware of our evolving situation we ask that you continue to keep us informed if your child becomes unwell, displays symptoms or if they have a Covid-19 Test. It is very important that you continue to make us aware of the outcome of any tests so that we can continue to monitor close contacts initially and then offer support and evaluate the scale of any ongoing problems as we near re-opening.

We recognise that this is likely to be very disruptive for you as parents and carers. I apologise for this and thank you for your flexibility and understanding, your words of support today have been very well received during what has been an incredibly busy and challenging day. I would also like to thank our staff team for their ongoing energy, positivity and commitment to make the very best of what is a difficult time for all schools.

Our priority is to protect the wellbeing of our school community and please rest assured that we have been planning for a partial closure scenario over the past months in case it was necessary to enable us to provide the best support possible for all our students and staff. We are hopeful that in making this step, it will provide a necessary break to help reduce the transmission rate within our wider community.

If you have any questions, please contact office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk

Darren Turner, Executive Principal