



9<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to inform you we were notified today, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020, that there has been two separate cases of COVID-19 within the school community. The positive cases have been discussed with Public Health England and one concerns a year 8 pupil, the other is a member of staff and they are not linked. We wish both a safe and speedy recovery. I apologise for this lengthy letter, but I do wish to maintain a clear line of communication with you so that as parents, and important people in our community, you have clear facts and we share a sense of truth, trust and honesty. Previous advice was that tutor/learning/friendship groups should go into isolation and in some local school's year groups have gone into isolation – **the advice for this case is that the learning/tutor group needs to self-isolate for 14 days from the point that they were last in contact with the positive case.**

We have been liaising with Department for Education (DfE), PHE and the local Health Protection Team. I can confirm that the student was last in school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020. In line with PHE guidance, we have identified those in the learning/tutor group and our risk assessment is that we require these 24 pupils to self-isolate for 14 days, returning to school on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The parents of the year 8 pupils have been contacted and will receive a separate letter with further details of provision for remote learning for the isolation period.

The teacher was last in school on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and had followed our risk assessment so did not have any students linked who would fall into close contacts category.

We have been reassured that the risk of infection within the wider school community from this case is minimal and that all appropriate action has been taken. **Therefore, the school will remain open as usual for all pupils and staff who have not received a phone call, letter or text informing them that they need to self-isolate.**

I appreciate that a great deal of anxiety and concern is in the community and I assure that it is not us, as an individual school, who makes the decision as to who goes home for a period of self-isolation. It is a multi-lateral decision involving Public Health England, The Department for Education and our Trust Board. All efforts are made to mitigate risk in the school and our main goal is to look after the pupils and staff. The Coronavirus Pandemic is not our fault, it is part of our life at this moment – please do all you can to help us beat it. Wash hands regularly, sanitise regularly, maintain social distancing and wear face coverings whenever possible and if possible. We must remain positive and I am sorry if you are feeling

frustrated, we feel that too. Thank you for all the support and messages of encouragement they really do help for we are in this together.

This does provide a useful reminder of how important it is that the measures we have in school to help prevent the spread of infection are followed and also how vital it is to respond swiftly if any household members present with symptoms of COVID-19. We will be reminding all students and staff of these points on an ongoing basis.

It is important that you read the following information which has been provided by Public Health England. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

If your child is well now, they do not need any specific treatment. However, you should be vigilant for any symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

The common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature, and/or
- a new continuous cough
- loss of sense of taste or smell

If you, or anyone in your family, have these symptoms now, or in the future, stay at home and contact NHS 111 for advice. Testing for people with symptoms is available and more information can be found [here](#).

### **Precautions**

There are things you can do to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- when you leave your home, always wash your hands when you return
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- 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
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

More information on COVID-19 is available on these websites from the [NHS](#) and the [Government](#).

Keeping our children and families, staff and local community safe is our priority. It is vital that we follow government guidance and the advice from the local Public Health England Health Protection Team. We realise that you may have questions about the situation: if this is the case please email [office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk)



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Please note that we will not be able to discuss any details relating to the individual case but will do our best to answer any general questions that you may have as promptly as we can.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep everyone at our school safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Turner

Executive Principal

