



7th December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to inform you we were notified on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 that there has been 3 separate confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school community. A positive case in year 10 student last in school Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December; a year 8 student last in Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November and a year 13 student last in Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November. 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. To date, this means we have had 44 positive cases in total. Thank you for all your efforts in helping us keep our community safe at a time when nationally the infection rate has dramatically increased. Previous advice was that tutor/learning/friendship groups should go into isolation and in some local schools year groups have gone into isolation – current advice is that we establish close contacts and it is those who are asked to isolate.

We have been liaising with Department for Education (DfE) Public Health England (PHE) and the local Health Protection Team. In line with PHE guidance, we identify those who have been in close contact and our risk assessment is that we do not require any pupils to self-isolate for the year 8 or year 13 case, other than the confirmed cases themselves for they. We do, however, require 13 students to self-isolate for the year 10 case and those individual students have been contacted and will return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (the first day back after the Christmas break).

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.**

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)

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.

### **Signing off for Christmas and a reminder of dates**

As you are aware, we have maintained vigilant checking of communications to the school over weekends and throughout half term; where we have had cases we have ensured that we have taken rapid action to carry out contact tracing, and contacted all parents to ensure that close contacts are isolated immediately. We have done this because we understand the importance of our role in protecting public health, ensuring that we prevent onward transmission within our schools as much as we can do.

Although we will continue this monitoring for a short period after the **school closes on Thursday 17th December**, we will have a complete shutdown period from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December to Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December to allow all staff to take a complete break. During this period, we will not be monitoring any incoming emails to the school.



However, we ask that you **do continue to inform the school of any positive test throughout the Christmas break by emailing [office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk)**

It is important we are gathering clear information about any cases in our school, please continue to state:

- The name and year group of your child
- The date that symptoms began or the reason that your child was taken for a test
- The date that the test was taken
- The date that the positive result was received

Test and trace will be activated by the positive test result, you will be expected to provide the details of the close contacts for your child so that they can be traced and told to isolate.

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January, Senior Leaders will review all the information that you have provided for us and we will risk assess to check whether we need to take any further action at the start of term due to positive cases before the **start of term on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Turner

Executive Principal

