



14 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that we have been made aware of 13 further members of our school community who have tested positive for COVID 19, 11 students and two members of staff.

The parents/carers of children who we know have been in close contact with the individuals who have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have been informed that their child must stay at home for 10 days as per the adapted guidance issued today.

Your child has NOT been identified as a close contact and does not need to self-isolate.

You will be aware that the position of the DfE and local authority is that children need to be in school receiving face to face learning whilst they remain well. I fully support that position and whilst we have enabled remote learning it should not be mistaken that we are actively encouraging it instead of students being in College.

Today I spoke to the DfE Regional Schools Commissioner for the South East who was reassured and positive about the steps we have taken and actions we are taking until the end of term.

We are mirroring the learning in College that students at home will receive for the sake of equity. Further to our letter on Friday I reiterate again that the College remains fully open and accessible to all. Unless you are concerned for your child's wellbeing, health or if they are showing signs of ill health, the advice is that they are best in school.

I understand that parents will wish to make decisions at this time based on their family circumstances. It is important I'm honest with the community to enable you to make decisions. We presently have 754 individuals across all year groups and staff who are contacts of cases and 24 positive cases in the last 14 days. We have others currently being tested. That equates to half the College student population affected and 24% of teaching staff. You will be aware that, as we anticipated on Friday, this is a significant rise since last week.

I would add that if your child has been in close contact with someone who has been told to self-isolate as a close contact of any recent case, under current guidance they do NOT have to isolate unless they or their contact develop symptoms.

We will continue to keep you informed as appropriate. At this time, we really appreciate the community support to work together to ensure that we keep Heathfield open until the end of term and keep students learning wherever they are.

Yours sincerely

MS C BARLOW
Headteacher



Distinguished
School

Further Information

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'. Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members 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. If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms: The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

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

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 COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19. *Do*

- wash your hands with soap and water often - do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information: is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>