



16 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you that today we have been made aware of 5 further members of our school community who have tested positive for COVID 19, 4 students and a member 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.

**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.

We are mirroring the learning in College that students at home will receive for the sake of equity. Further to previous letters 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.

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.

I understand that parents will wish to make decisions at this time based on their family circumstances. It is important I am honest with the community to ensure they are able to make those decisions. We presently have 780 individuals across all year groups and staff who are contacts of cases and 29 positive cases since 1 December. We have others currently being tested. That equates to over half the College student population affected and 24% of teaching staff.

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.

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 your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

### Further Information

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