

EBE/srg

18th October 2021

Advice to All Parents

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been in contact with Public Health England today in respect of a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the School. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child and the school, in helping keep these cases to a minimum.

The majority of cases amongst our student body reported at this stage, are within our Year 7 and Year 8 age groups, although we do have one or two cases reported in other year groups too. We are also experiencing some staff absence, as well as amongst our students.

The School remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

What will we do?

We are working in reference to our current Risk Assessment (available on the school website under “Key Information”) and Contingency Plan. At this stage whilst student numbers are still low, we will be following the enhanced measures stated below:

- Ensuring enhanced cleaning remains in place, with hand sanitising opportunities for students in classrooms and in corridors.
- Ensuring all possible ventilation options in classrooms and communal areas are utilised.
- ***Reintroducing face coverings in both communal areas and classrooms, from Tuesday 19th October for the rest of this term, unless medically exempt.***

These measures, known as “Stage 1”, could be enhanced or adapted at any stage, as we continue to monitor the situation and work with Public Health England, as and when, necessary.

For students who are self-isolating but are well and able to work they will be provided with remote learning as similar as possible to that undertaken by the rest of their class.

What can you do?

The following represents actions we would very much like you to consider at home to ensure the School continues to be able to function as normally as possible for all

Continued/....

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- We strongly encourage household members that are aged 11 and over to continue with twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly. We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>
- If your child has any symptoms of COVID-19 to get a PCR test and remain at home at least, until the result is known.
- Consider events and activities attended in social time outside of School (particularly if indoors) and apply sensible precautions.
- **Support the measures in school by providing face coverings for your child, and reinforcing the importance to them of following such measures, when in school and on public transport.**

As you are aware NHS Track and Trace directly contact individuals who are identified as potential close contacts, and are given advice about whether they are required to self-isolate or not. The School is no longer required to conduct contact tracing following the changes in government guidance in July 2021. If you think your child is a close contact but has not have not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace please follow the guidance here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person#i-think-i-have-had-contact-with-someone-who-has-tested-positive-for-covid-19-but-i-have-not-been-notified-and-advised-to-self-isolate-what-should-i-do>

A reminder regarding the national guidelines that also apply from 16 August, you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek also 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.

Finally, if you have any concerns about your child at this time please do not hesitate to contact their Director of Student Progress or PSA for that year group, alternatively you can contact us as usual via talk2us@willingdonschool.org.uk

Best wishes,
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Headteacher

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