

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020**

Dear Year 9 Parents,

I'm writing to let you know that we have today had confirmation a Year 9 student has tested positive for COVID 19. We also believe that a second Year 9 student, in a different class, may have tested positive, and are hoping to reach her family shortly to get confirmation. For now, we will assume that both students have it.

We have spoken to the Department of Education today and the key points are:

- Students who are deemed to be “close contacts” are being contacted by phone and email directly. These are students who have sat close in lessons or had close contact in other settings (e.g. lunchtime). If you do not receive a call or email like this, then you have not been identified by contract tracing as a “close contact”.
- Students who have not been identified as close contacts do not need to take any action. Most students in Year 9 fall into this category.
- We are helped by the fact it is half term, so contact between students is already being limited. The two students were also absent for part of last week, which further limited mixing.
- We appreciate this news may be concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with DfE. This letter is just to keep people informed. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Unless we write with further information, all Year 9 students are expected back at school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The 16-day holiday means that any self-isolation which needs to happen in response to these cases will be complete before the new term. The rest of this letter contains some general information parents may find helpful.

### **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 14 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 14-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 14 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
- a high temperature
- 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:

- 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/>

If you have any questions for the school then please direct them to [info@kaa.org.uk](mailto:info@kaa.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

**David Benson**  
Principal