

11 November 2020

## Confirmed COVID case

Dear Parents & Carers,

Please note that a student in Year 7 tested positive for Coronavirus today. Because they were absent last week, the Department of Education have advised that there has been no contact with other Year 7 students during the infectious period, meaning there is no action the school needs to take.

**Students in Year 7 and all years can therefore continue to attend as normal.** I am only writing in the interest of sharing information openly.

There is also a part-time, non-teaching member of staff has tested positive this week. They were last in school on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November, and came into contact with a small number of students who now have to isolate. The parents of these students have been contacted already so there is no need for anyone to worry.

I wanted to make the following points more broadly;

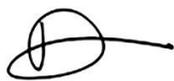
- I of course appreciate this is an anxious time. However, as long as parents, students and staff follow safety protocols, we can be confident risks are being managed and **school is by far the best place for students to be.**
- Some of those safety protocols that are worth mentioning again here are:
  - o If a student or anyone in their household has a new, continuous cough, a temperature, or a loss of sense of taste or smell, **the student must not come to school.** Instead, they should isolate and get tested ASAP.
  - o Hand-washing, mask wearing and social distancing are absolutely key.
  - o Students should not mix between year groups in or out of school (siblings excepted of course) and close contact between students must be avoided.
- In total, KAA has now had five confirmed student cases (one Y7, three in Y9, and one Y10) and two confirmed staff cases over a period of four weeks. This is not unusual for this area of London and not a cause for alarm. We track suspected cases and positive cases very carefully, with a particular focus on what is happening within bubbles, and if we need to take stronger action (e.g. isolate a whole year group) we would.
- Whilst I fully understand why people want to get in touch, I would be very grateful if parents could refrain from calling or emailing us with questions about Coronavirus unless it is a genuine emergency (e.g. you or your child has symptoms and you are notifying us). The current number of calls and emails is proving difficult, and it is not possible for us to respond to these and run the school. We don't have any extra reception or admin staff to deal with all these extra enquiries - on the contrary, our staff capacity is actually reduced because at any given time we are likely to

have some staff isolating. Parents can have confidence in the safety measures we have in place, and trust that we are working closely with the Department of Education and local Public Health teams. **We will hold a virtual Q&A session next week which any concerned parent can attend and ask questions, and we will write in due course with the arrangements for this.** Many enquires can be answered by looking at our risk assessment below, which is updated regularly and details a wide range of virus protection measures we have in place. Please also remember that at KAA our students are split across two sites, which creates far more space for social distancing than in most schools and helps makes the environment even safer.

The COVID risk assessment can be found at: <https://kaa.org.uk/students-parents/covid-19-parent-updates/>

I want to thank parents for their support and we will be back in touch if we have any further information to share.

Best wishes,



**David Benson**  
**Principal**