

Dear Parents

**Headmaster's update re coronavirus
Friday 18th September 2020**

I am writing at the end of the week that has seen new coronavirus measures introduced in our region. Whilst the recent rise in infection is a serious concern, we are far from complacent and I am pleased that, at least for the time being, the School can maintain its current levels of activity and protective measures.

I am conscious of the enormous amount of coronavirus related information and guidance we all receive, but in the interests of all members of the school community I would like to highlight the following and ask that you read and act upon it where necessary, please.

You should not send your son to school if:

1. **He has coronavirus symptoms** (high temperature; a new continuous cough; loss or change to his sense of smell or taste). Please inform us immediately. Your son will then need to self-isolate for ten days following the date his symptoms started and you will need to arrange either [online](#) or by calling 111 or 119 for him to be tested. This [BBC video](#) may be helpful in interpreting symptoms.
2. A member of his household has coronavirus symptoms and/or tests positive. All members of the household must self-isolate for 14 days from when the household member first experienced symptoms, or 14 days from the date the positive test was taken.

Where symptoms subsequently emerge during a period of self-isolation, the required period of self-isolation is recalculated as ten days following the date symptoms started. It is therefore important that if your son is self-isolating and subsequently becomes symptomatic, that you inform the School promptly.

Locally, schools are now being advised that someone who has been in close contact with a confirmed case must also now self-isolate for 14 days. It had been expected that the instruction to do this would be coming from the local NHS Test and Trace teams. However, due to demand, there are delays in this being notified. Therefore, schools are being asked to communicate that **if your son has been in close contact (see conditions below) with a confirmed case but have not yet heard from NHS Test and Trace and whether or not he is symptomatic, he should self-isolate and inform the School**, including the following information:

- When was the test of his positive contact
- When was your son in contact with them
- Whether or not he is symptomatic

The School must then inform the local health protection team who should then confirm or cancel your son's self-isolation within, they say, a day or so.

Unfortunately, a few of our families and staff have experienced problems with the availability of coronavirus tests and the capacity of NHS Test and Trace not currently meeting demands. This is having implications for schools and families both within our region and nationally.

It is however important to stress that **you should only arrange a test for your son if he has symptoms**. Non-symptomatic close contacts are advised not to get a test as this is putting well-publicised strain on the testing system which is needed for those with symptoms. Negative results can prove inaccurate and have damaging consequences for schools. Any boy going for a test should not return to school while waiting for the result.

The definition of close contact is:

A 'contact' is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for coronavirus any time from two days before the person was symptomatic up to ten days from the onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others). For example, a contact can be:

- *people who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for coronavirus*
- *a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, including:*
 - *being coughed on*
 - *having a face-to-face conversation within one metre*
 - *having skin-to-skin physical contact, or*
 - *contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact*
- *a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus for more than 15 minutes*
- *a person who has travelled in a small vehicle, e.g. a car, with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus*

Whilst we are doing all that we can to achieve the highest possible levels of attendance in school for all boys in all year groups, we are also continuing to prepare for the possibility that some boys or groups are likely to be required to revert to remote teaching and learning in the event that our school community is directly impacted by coronavirus.

We have also reviewed the School's **Behaviour management policy** in the light of the post-coronavirus return to school for all year groups. As a result of this review, we have produced an addendum to the policy that you can read **here**. It is important to emphasise that boys must always behave responsibly and safely in school, ensuring that time spent in class and other learning activities is maximised.

Finally, please could parents remind boys that when they leave school, in line with Government guidance, they should still be observing social distancing and should not be in groups of more than six. All boys aged 11 or over should wear face coverings in most public indoor settings and when travelling on public transport.

Many thanks for your continued support. Please don't hesitate to contact the School if you have any questions or concerns.

With all best wishes



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