



18 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been in touch with Public Health England today, as we have received confirmation that a student has tested positive for COVID-19. We have worked closely throughout this our local Public Health Team who were very helpful and it has been reassuring to see that the process we have in place and the support from them has been very effective.

Our local Public Health Team have confirmed that the student concerned was **NOT** in school at all during their infectious period and that no further action is required to be taken by the school. However, I wanted to let you all know about this and also wanted to reassure you that our systems are working effectively and your child is not at any increased risk. We are satisfied that this was a community transmission case.

As you know, we have a rigorous system of controls in place in school, including students operating in year group 'bubbles', staggered starts and ends to the day, separate break and lunch times, enhanced hygiene, the use of face coverings for everyone moving around the building, a one way system and seating plans for every lesson.

Our students have been excellent these last two weeks at following our new protocols. I'd like to thank them for being so mature and sensible. They have all been very patient and understanding and it's great that they are all so positive about being back in school.

Unfortunately, as we progress through the coming weeks it is very likely that we will see more cases such as this in our schools and work places. It has therefore been reassuring to see that the processes we have in place and the support we have received so far have been good.

### **Face coverings**

Under the new local restrictions that came into force today, I need to inform you that the government have now instructed us that face coverings should be worn by all staff, visitors and students when moving around in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It is still not necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower and they may inhibit teaching and learning. This has been working well in our school for the last three weeks but I would like to remind you of the following:

- Students and staff are therefore required to wear face coverings in corridors as they go to registration, move between lessons, as they move to and from break and lunch and as they leave the school at the end of the day.
- Once students have arrived at their lesson or break/lunch area, face coverings can be removed.
- Students should put their face coverings on by the time they enter the school building.
- Those students and staff who are medically exempt from wearing face coverings are not required to wear them.

## **Reminders**

Please can I remind you that parents and carers are not allowed on site unless they have made a prior appointment. You are of course welcome to contact the school by phone and email.

If your child does have to self-isolate for any reason, we will provide work for them to do at home, assuming they are well enough to. We will use their school email address to communicate with them and send them work, so please ensure they check this.

Finally, please find attached some very clear guidance from the local Public Health Team on Covid-19 and common cold symptoms and a simple guide on what to do if your child does have Covid-19 symptoms.

Yours sincerely

Mr Wilkinson