

1 December 2020



Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Year 8 self-isolation**

I am very sorry indeed to inform you that we are required to insist that all students in Year 8 self-isolate again for two weeks, returning to school on Monday 14 December.

Unfortunately, one student came into school on Monday even though a member of their household had Covid symptoms and was waiting for test results. We have been informed that the student concerned also hugged a number of students within their year group on the way to school and was in circulation amongst all of Year 8 for some of the day on Monday. We now know that both the student and the household member have tested positive. In this case, the student should not have been sent to school on Monday as a member of their household was waiting for results. The students should certainly not have been hugging one another as we have made it clear that at present, more than ever, we are a non-contact school – and this includes travel to and from school. Please be assured we have directly contacted the parents of the students who were hugging.

I feel strongly that this fresh closure to a year group could/should have been avoided and I must take this opportunity to remind all parents of the importance of following the rules, and I ask you again to discuss the seriousness of this with your children. The Government's rules on self-isolation and our school rules have been carefully designed to keep everyone as safe as possible in these difficult times. We all have a responsibility to follow them and protect each other.

### **Self-isolation**

This means that students should stay at home throughout the entire two weeks. Other household members, including siblings in other year groups, are not required to also self-isolate unless anyone develops symptoms, in which case the entire household should self-isolate until either negative test results are obtained or until two weeks have passed in the case of a positive test result.

### **Keeping students at home**

Students should be kept at home if any member of their household is showing symptoms until a negative test result is obtained. Students should also be kept at home if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- a temperature;
- a cough;
- a loss of taste/smell.

In addition to this I have an email from Public Health England which advises that children, in keeping with what I wrote to you on Friday, should also stay at home for the following symptoms:

- diarrhoea;
- nausea;
- vomiting;
- extreme tiredness;
- headaches;
- joint pain;
- muscle ache;
- runny nose and/or sneezing;
- sore throat;
- altered consciousness;
- seizures.

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**HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD**

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I cannot guarantee that we will not be required to send home other year groups, but I am certain that if you look for early signs and keep ill students at home until you are sure it is safe for them to return we can minimise the chances of this happening.

If you are in any doubt about whether you should send your son or daughter to school then please contact us for advice. We would rather that your son or daughter was late to school, than in school and putting others at risk.

We will contact all Year 8 parents about the work we would like them to do and the assessments that were scheduled for next week, tomorrow.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracey Savage', written in a cursive style.

Tracey Savage  
Headteacher