

5th October, 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus update 28: for Year 8 and Year 9 Parents and Carers

I am writing to you to advise you two further members of our community, one in Year 8 and one in Year 9, have tested positive for coronavirus. I am sure you would want to join with me in assuring both students of our thoughts and prayers as they recover from their infection.

Year 8

Because of the timing of the news about the Year 8 infection, we have taken the precaution of asking all Year 8 students to self-isolate today (Monday 5th October). We will be able to accommodate any Year 8 boys who did not get the message in time and who turn up at school. During the course of today we comb back through class-lists *etc* to determine whether any boys can come into school (because they were not in contact with the young man in question), but **unless you hear otherwise from us, please assume that your son will need to self-isolate until 11:59pm on Friday 16th October.**

Year 9

All students in 9R must self-isolate until 11:59pm on Monday 12th October. In addition, a small number of other students in the year-group may need to self-isolate (if they had contact with the student in question out of lessons); Mr Harrison will be identifying these students today and will be in touch with the families concerned. **If your son is in 9C, 9L, 9P, 9S or 9W, there is no need for them to self-isolate unless you hear otherwise from us.**

Both year-groups

The standard letter below gives further details about self-isolation. There is no need for other members of your son's family to self-isolate, and no need for your son to get a test (unless he develops one of the Covid symptoms – a new continuous cough, a high temperature, or a change or loss of taste or smell).

Where possible, lessons will continue during self-isolation. We have been working to ensure that the resources that students use in class will be available, through Teams, to those not in class too; if you have any difficulties accessing them, please contact ITsupport@stmargaretsacademy.com

I am sorry for any inconvenience this news may cause for you or your family. If you have any questions, or need any support, please do not hesitate to contact us through the usual channels.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Brierley
Principal.

Dear Parent or Carer

We have been advised by Public Health England that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school. We have followed the national guidance and have identified that the children mentioned in the previous letter have been in close contact with the affected child. In line with the national guidance we recommend that your child now stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days from their last contact with the confirmed case. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community. If your child is well at the end of the 14 days period of self-isolation, then they can return to usual activities. A negative test does not mean that your child can return to school earlier than 14 days. Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 14 day self-isolation period.

Please see the link to the PHE Staying at Home Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared as advised in <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>. You should arrange for testing for your child via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or 111.nhs.uk or primary care. All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. 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. 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 to, 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 of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, 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 by phoning 119, or from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>.

How to stop COVID 19 spreading

There are ways you can 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 is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Brierley, Principal.