

2nd October, 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus update 27a: for Year 10 Parents and Carers

I am writing to you to advise you that a member of Year 10 has tested positive for Coronavirus. I am sure you would want to join with me in sending him our thoughts and assuring him of our prayers for a speedy recovery.

Anyone who was in contact with the young man in question will need to self-isolate for 14 days since their last contact with him. This means that any student who was in:

- Drama with Mr Mulligan on Monday 28th September, or
 - History with Mrs Mariner on Monday 28th September
- will need to self-isolate until the end of Monday 12th October; and any student who was in:
- Maths with Dr Mendy on Tuesday 29th September, or
 - English with Mrs Bell on Tuesday 29th September
- will need to self-isolate until the end of Tuesday 13th October.

In addition, anyone else who had contact with the student in question will need to self-isolate for 14 days since their last contact with him. Contact could have happened on the bus going to or from school, or in the canteen or on the yard at break or lunch-time. Contact is defined as:

- having a face-to-face conversation and being less than 1 metre away from the student; or
- being within 1 metre of him for more than a minute; or
- being within 2 metres of him for more than 15 minutes.

I have this afternoon visited all Year 10's classes and explained this to all Year 10 boys, telling them the name of the student who has tested positive.

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).

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.