



## COVID Update - Friday, 13th November 2020

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Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I am writing to keep you informed in relation to the latest COVID developments. Since my last email there have been two confirmed student cases. There is no apparent connection between the two cases nor with any other student case.

Subsequently, we have identified 31 students who need to isolate as a consequence of being in proximity to these students. The local health protection team have been informed and remain assured that we have taken appropriate action to trace students. When we contact students to tell them to isolate we speak to the student and or parent directly as well as sending an email which provides all the relevant details. I have been impressed with the maturity with which students have responded in these circumstances, with everyone recognising the need to follow government guidelines so that we keep friends, family and our community as safe as possible. If the student who needs to isolate is at College they are unable to use public transport to get home and I am very grateful to all those parents who have had to rearrange their day at short notice to pick up their son or daughter from College.

Further to my notification about students being contacted by the NHS app who had not had contact with a positive case, the Local Outbreak Response Team (LORT) have advised staff and students in schools and colleges to either turn off the test and trace app or Bluetooth whilst in the setting or to leave phones at home or in their car. Their explanation is that the contact tracing function works on the premise that the Bluetooth within the mobile phones will pick up other phones that have been in close contact. Therefore, if mobile phones are stored within the same room/area and within proximity of each other, the app will consider them to be in close contact and will therefore request that they self-isolate if a positive case of COVID-19 is identified.

On a positive note a representative from the Local Authority has visited College to discuss whether they might be able to improve the bus stop on Spetchley

Road. While they thought this was unlikely they did demonstrate an understanding of the issues and a willingness to consider improvements to the service into town. We will await their final response with interest.

Finally, please can I remind everyone that students must not come to College if they or a member of the household has symptoms. If students stay at home when they or a family member has symptoms it ensures that other students will not need to be sent home if they subsequently have a positive test result.

Kind regards

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