

COVID Update - Wednesday, 14th October

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Today we had a second student notify us that they had received a positive COVID test result. The student in question had been isolating at home and has not been in College this week - this case is not linked to the instance reported yesterday.

I immediately contacted the local health protection team who advised that in their view, as the student had not been in College during the period they were infectious, no further action was required and any students this person was in contact with last week can continue to attend lessons as normal.

We will ensure, in all circumstances, that we follow the local health protection team advice and anyone who needs to isolate will be identified and notified to ensure they understand the period for which they should isolate and the reason for this.

The local health protection team also advised that I did not need to share this information, however, my view is that I want everyone to be well-informed at all times hence this email.

I think this example does serve to illustrate the importance of staying at home if you or a family member have symptoms and of notifying the College at the earliest opportunity. This ensures that we do not put other people at risk and allows the College to follow the appropriate health protection guidance.

A couple of parents have asked me how those students told to isolate yesterday were identified and I am happy to explain that. On contacting the local health protection team they reviewed our risk assessment and said that anyone who had been in close contact (2 metres) with the affected person had to isolate. We

identified these people by talking to the affected person and reviewing seating plans and registers with the relevant staff.

This is a good moment to reflect on the importance of keeping our distance in College wherever possible, following one way systems and wearing our masks.

We have identified changes to the timetable that will commence after half-term with a view to encouraging greater distancing at lunch times and I will continue to review and update our risk assessment on an ongoing basis.

Given the likelihood that increased infection rates locally will impact upon the College, I will endeavour to keep you informed of any developments on a regular basis.

Yours sincerely

Ed Senior
Principal