

27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Re: Year 8 COVID Update

Thank you for bearing with us and the actions we have taken following the positive test for COVID 19 in the year group.

### Well done Year 8!

We know that there are challenges all round with virtual learning, however, I am pleased to say that Year 8 have really risen to the challenge. We have seen close to 100% levels of engagement so well done all! Keep it up.

Please also work with your child to ensure they are completing all the work set as well as being part of the lessons.

### What we asked pupils to do

- All Year 8 pupils were asked to remain at home.
- The small number of children who had been in close contact with the individual who tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) received a separate letter informing them that their child must **stay at home for 14 days and self-isolate**. **These pupils will return on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December** as long as they remain well.
- All other Year 8 pupils were required to remain at home, because we have several staff self-isolating and did not have the capacity to teach them on site. These pupils **were not required to self-isolate** because they were not close contacts. We will be in a better staffing position from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December. **If your child was not a close contact as in the bullet point above, they must return to school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December**, as long as they remain well.
- Until your child's return date, they will continue to be set work on Teams.

### 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. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. I am advised by the Local Health Team that there is plenty of testing capacity in Southwark and results are being returned as quickly as 24hrs. If in doubt, get tested.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

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

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.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

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, 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

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

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your 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 from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

## How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk if you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

### *Do*

- 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**

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

I thank you all for the fantastic engagement of your children and I hope to see them very soon.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Marcus Huntley  
**Principal**