



10 September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to you at the end of what has been a very positive first week of the new academic year. It has been fantastic to meet Year 11 students and talk about the amazing school we aim to become. I have been hugely impressed by the positive and welcoming response I have received.

As I wrote in my earlier letters to parents, we know that students are returning to school in unprecedented and uncertain times.

**The safety of our pupils and staff remains our main priority. To support us in this effort, please ensure that your child does not attend school if s/he has any COVID-19 symptoms.**

**If a pupil has COVID-19 symptoms then they must:**

- **Self-isolate at home (and not come to school)**
- **Get tested immediately.**

**The rest of the family (including any siblings) must also stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days. If a pupil lives with a household member who has symptoms, then they must not come to school – they should self-isolate for 14 days with the rest of the household.**

If your child does become unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), you must arrange for them to have a test to see if they have COVID-19. You can book a test at a local site or order a home test kit on the [NHS website](#) or contact NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access. If anyone else in your household develops any of these symptoms then they must also have a test. Please inform the school of any positive results.

As I have expressed to students, we are all in a new normal and need to take extra precautions to keep each other safe. The information on our website highlights the detailed planning and safety measures we have put in place to protect each other whilst maintaining a strong focus on learning.

We have had our first case of COVID-19 in the school and, thanks to the comprehensive measures we have put in place to minimise the risk of the virus spreading, we were quickly able to identify a small number of pupils who had been in close contact with the pupil who has tested positive. In line with advice from Public Health England, these pupils and the pupil who has tested positive are now self-isolating for two weeks at home, where they will continue their studies. Because we had planned pupil groups carefully, we were able to work out quickly who may have been exposed to the virus. The school remains safe and open to all other pupils.

In the next few days, I will be endeavouring to phone all of our year 11 parents for a conversation in relation to the year ahead. In normal times this would have been a face to face meeting. The call will include your child and, together, we can speak about the challenges ahead in what is a critical year in their education.



In advance of the call, I would like to highlight that we have already begun to establish a number of provisions that we believe will support students. These include:

- Purchasing a new laptop for each year 11 student for the duration of their study.
- Planning to be able to deliver remote lessons so students will receive a normal curriculum if they are at home.
- Starting support lessons after school from the week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September.
- Employing additional provision for tutoring.

I will provide more details about this during the call. I look forward to speaking to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. O'Brien', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr A. O'Brien

Executive Principal