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Cottingham High School
and Sixth Form College



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Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I am writing to provide you with a brief update, now that we have completed a full week with all year groups back in school accessing a broad and balanced, full curriculum offer. We have been so impressed by the positive way our students have adapted to and engaged with our new 'normal'. This, and the support of our parents and carers, has been crucial for the smooth transition back to school after lock-down and the summer break. It hasn't all been plain-sailing and we know there have been some problems and issues, but we have adapted our approach to ensure that at all times, the health and wellbeing of all pupils and staff is at the forefront of our decision-making processes. Where we have been made aware of issues, we have carefully considered alternative approaches. We will, of course, continue to review our procedures and update risk assessments as required.

Symptoms and Testing

There are of course concerns around a member of a year group bubble becoming unwell. We are well into the cold and flu season and some students are displaying signs and symptoms of colds. This is to be expected. Students can come into school with colds if they feel well enough to do so. However, students clearly displaying one of the following three symptoms, which the NHS regard as the most common symptoms of Coronavirus, should stay at home:

- a high temperature –feeling hot to touch on the chest or back
- a new, continuous cough –coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to the sense of smell or taste- being unable to taste or smell, or being aware that things taste and smell differently.

Most people with Coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms. Clearly, there have been difficulties in accessing tests but it is important that if your child has any of the above symptoms they should isolate at home (along with the rest of the household) in-line with government guidance, or until a test has proved to be negative. You will find relevant advice by following the link here:

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

If a child becomes unwell at school with any of the symptoms above, they will be sent home to follow government guidance.

Suspected cases and confirmed cases

As soon as a person displays any of the three symptoms, it is considered a 'suspected' case until a test is done and a result is returned. If a test is positive, it becomes a 'confirmed' case. In the event of 'suspected' cases, there is no need for communication from the school to parents as most suspected cases are not COVID-19 related. In the event of a positive case of a pupil or a member of staff, the school will take advice from the DfE and Public Health and communicate with all affected pupils and parents as quickly as possible.



Unfortunately, there may come a time when we have to close the school to an entire bubble.

What happens if pupils are required to stay at home?

If a child is isolating at home and they are well enough to complete school work, this will be provided. In the event of an entire bubble being sent home, we are expecting to provide a mixture of work that involves some teacher led lessons through Microsoft Teams. We are working on the finer details of this blended approach. If a child would have problems accessing work at home through lack of relevant technology, please let the school know and we will endeavour to loan out some equipment.

You will find the following links, which have already been shared with students, very useful in the event of us moving to a blended learning model:

Y7

https://consortiumtrust-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/wardle_a_cottinghamhigh_net/ER39fO71r3JOtREx7IJ2OYwBgxUDFjdbLKTA-EifxRofFvg?e=5Y52Fb

Y8-13

https://consortiumtrust-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/wardle_a_cottinghamhigh_net/EUO-E0AX8D9DnRC7b9qTdUgB0DfyWowlPhfldWmOlzRh9A?e=FVE29o

Preventative measures

We are doing everything we can in school to educate students about preventative measures and to ensure good hygiene and social distancing. Please continue to discuss with your child the need for social distancing before they arrive and once they have left the school site. Year groups are arriving/leaving from different exits and at slightly staggered times, but it appears some pupils are congregating outside of school hours. We can all reduce the risk of catching or spreading Coronavirus by observing the social distancing rules and exercising some social responsibility. You will find the guidance using this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing/coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing>

Please also ensure that your child arrives at school with a face covering, which must be worn on entering the school buildings. We cannot continue to supply face coverings for students and they are essential for the safety of everyone attending CHS. Should your child be exempt from wearing a face covering, we will issue a green lanyard to clearly signal this, but we can only do so once parents/carers have provided us with evidence of exemption so if you have not already contacted us to provide this, please do so as soon as possible by emailing: office@cottinghamhigh.net

Once again, thank you for your continued support and the many positive messages we have received into school. We will continue to update you regularly.

Best wishes

Loz Wilson
Headteacher



