

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are keeping well. Here at the academy we move towards the end of term thankful that we have managed to keep the school open throughout this challenging term. Thank you to you all for working together with us in partnership to ensure that protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of our whole school community could remain our absolute priority this term. While this has been the case, this term we have not allowed our curriculum and joy of learning to be sacrificed, with practical subjects coming up with ingenious ways of operating in year group bubbles and rich learning experiences still had across the board.

I am writing to update you on some additional precautionary actions that are being undertaken following a student testing positive for COVID-19. Having sought advice from the Department for Education, Public Health England, the local council and the Ormiston Academies Trust, 2 staff members and 30 students in total who have been identified as potential contacts are now going to be learning remotely from home tomorrow and self-isolating as a precaution to limit any transmission of the virus. **Please note that we have made home contact with all of the families of the 30 students and that if we have not been in contact this afternoon, your child is not affected.**

In the meantime, **the school is safe to remain open to all students and teachers who have not been identified as potential contacts and all students other than those we have communicated with already should attend tomorrow.** By having robust processes in place we have been able to act immediately to identify those who need to self-isolate, and to keep that number as small as possible.

For your awareness, the **staff and students identified are being asked to self-isolate up to and including the 24<sup>th</sup> December.** Other members of the household can continue normal activities provided the student does not develop symptoms within the 10 day self-isolation period, and you can find further guidance [here](#) for members of the household. Students who do not develop symptoms will be able to return to the academy after the Christmas break.

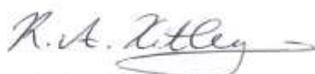
However, if the student develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via the [NHS website](#) or by calling 119. All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days, from the day when the first person in the house becomes ill. This includes anyone in the 'Support Bubble'. Please find a link [here](#) for further guidance on what to do if a household develops symptoms.

Please note, if you need to alert the academy of a positive test result between Friday 18th December and Thursday 24th December, please send an email to: [info@cowesec.org](mailto:info@cowesec.org) and the academy will be in touch. From Friday 25th December through to Sunday 3rd January, you will not be required to inform the academy of a confirmed case.

I want to take this opportunity to reassure you that, as always, the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is our number one priority and we will continue to adhere to all Government and local guidance to safeguard our school community in the New Year.

I look forward to welcoming your child back to the academy after the break, however, I will write to you again tomorrow to clarify the arrangements for a staggered start following the Government's announcement this afternoon.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Kitley  
Principal