



The Howard School



A Specialist Sports College
"To Strive and Achieve is to Succeed"

13 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been made aware of several members of our school community who have tested positive for COVID 19 both over half term and this week.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. The advice given to schools is an ever-changing picture and we follow the guidance of Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Unfortunately, we have reached the point whereby we have insufficient staffing to safely keep the school open for all students, all the time. Therefore, the following very difficult decision has been made in respect to students in years 8 and year 9.

Year 9 students have had remote learning at home since Wednesday 11.11.20 and will now continue to have remote learning until Monday 23rd November, when they return to school as normal.

Year 8 students will begin remote learning at home from Monday 16 November for two weeks and will return to school on Monday 30th November.

Things are changing on a daily basis, so please can I ask that you check the website daily. I will update it by 8am in relation to any school closures.

Work will be provided for year 8 and 9 students via Google Classroom and Knowledge Organisers. Keyworkers and Looked After Students can still come into school in full uniform. They will do the same work as students are doing at home, as we have no capacity to teach them. Please can you contact Mrs Parish on parishj@thehowardschool.co.uk if you are a key worker and want your child to come into school or if your child receives Free School Meals and you want to collect your child's free school meals.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, **they must not come to school** and 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.

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>

www.thehowardschool.co.uk



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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 of 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/>

Yours sincerely



Ms C Reid
Executive Headteacher