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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

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Dear Parents and Carers

I am very sorry to have to write this letter to you. You may though be aware that a student in Year 11 attended school on Monday, the first day Year 11 were back in school and has today had a confirmed COVID-19 test result. The student in question was tested on Tuesday and we received confirmation this morning. Since then we have been in contact with Public Health England and the Local Authority and with support from these bodies we have established close contacts and these students were isolated and sent home early from school. These actions follow the guidance provided by these public bodies. The students will remain away from school for 14 days after the contact. As students are separated, apart from the passing movement between lessons, I am as confident as I can be that only a small number of Year 11 students are directly impacted upon.

I am sure that this is worrying news to many, but hopefully the following advice I have been asked to pass on helps. Students who are not a close contact are at minimal risk from this case:

'COVID19 Information

You have been given this factsheet as you have may have close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

As you are well now, you do not need any specific treatment or change what you are doing. However, like anybody else during this current situation, you are being asked to monitor your own health, looking out for any symptoms such as cough or fever.

What symptoms should I be concerned about?

You should look for any of the following symptoms:

- ***new continuous cough***
- ***fever (a temperature of 37.8°C or higher)***
- ***loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)***

If you develop these symptoms, however mild, at any point stay at home for 10 days from when your symptoms have started and refer to the guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If you need to seek medical advice seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening. If it's not an emergency, contact NHS 111 online.

If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111.

If it is an emergency and you need to call an ambulance, dial 999 and inform the call handler or operator that you have coronavirus (COVID-19).'

I have also been asked to request that you do not seek tests unless someone in your household becomes symptomatic, as the sheer volumes of tests requested are leading to delays, as in this case. However, I do understand that there may be a raised level of anxiety and I think you know your children best, if you feel you need a test, that is your prerogative.

Can I please once again emphasise the importance of not sending students to school should they have any of the three symptoms:

- new continuous cough
- fever (a temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

We need your help to keep transmission to the lowest it can possibly be in school and our community, and clearly there are significant delays in getting a test, receiving the results and contact being made with school. I absolutely believe that the best place for your children is school, but I do also understand the worries you have as a parent. I fear that this will not be the last time I have to write this letter to you; please, please follow the health guidance and remind students of the need to limit close contact with students. We will continue with enhanced cleaning, bubbles/zones etc. etc., but if we get a confirmed case then it is likely that everyone who has sat within two metres of the person for the duration of a lesson will be required to stay at home for 14 days once contact has been made from school or contact tracing.

Can I also draw your attention to the requirement to self-isolate if you have visited countries on the government's watch list. As we become aware of a small number of visits that have been made, we are returning students to their family home to self-isolate.

We absolutely rely on you as Parents and Carers to help the school to keep our community safe. Your help is very much appreciated, but I cannot over-emphasise the importance of this help.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Flanagan', written in a cursive style.

Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher