

To Parents of Students at Sidcot School

30 September 2020

Dear Parent

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Further to email correspondence earlier today, I am writing to update you on the current situation and planned action following the positive test for COVID-19 by one of our students.

The student affected is now in separate quarantine accommodation, where symptoms are being monitored. Thankfully they appear to be mild. All those who have had contact within the last 48 hours have been traced and isolated. In addition, any students showing symptoms have been tested and will be isolated until the results of the testing is known. We have informed the Department for Education of this incident and are in contact with Public Health England (PHE) to receive their ongoing advice.

Action by Cohorts:

- **Boarders** – As a precaution, all boarding students are being isolated within their boarding houses for the next two weeks. Breakfast and lunch will be eaten in house and the evening meal in the Refectory by 'house bubbles' in strict rotation. All boarding students will be monitored for COVID-19 symptoms and temperature checks will be conducted throughout the day.
- **Sixth Form** – As a precaution, we are asking all Sixth Form students to remain at home for a period of two weeks from today and access teaching through Online Supported Learning (OSL).
- **Siblings** – We have been asked by some parents about siblings of Sixth Form students currently self-isolating. Given that they have had no direct contact with the student with the positive test, according to Government guidelines drawn up by PHE, they are able to come to school. However, we understand that parents may wish to keep them at home, in which case they can access classes through OSL. If your Sixth Form child presents with any COVID-19 symptoms, then the whole household should self-isolate for a period of fourteen days.
- **Other Students** – We have confirmed with PHE that the risk to all other students is very low and so they should continue to attend School unless they develop COVID-19 symptoms.

General Advice from the Health Centre:

- Please can we remind parents that if your child has a persistent cough, or has three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours, or a high temperature, or a loss or change in sense of taste or smell, as per the current guidance they should not be in school and should be tested for COVID-19. We also advise that you take your child's temperature every morning before coming to School.
- We understand that a lot of students have cold symptoms at this time of year, however we are unable to guarantee they are not displaying symptoms of Coronavirus and, therefore, a test should be arranged. We would be grateful if parents can notify School of COVID-19 test results as soon as possible.
- If your child started displaying possible symptoms over five days ago it is too late to be tested, and so they must self-isolate for at least ten days from the start of symptoms and until they are well, along with their household. This includes siblings remaining away from school. If they have been attending School, please could we ask that these procedures are activated with immediate effect.
- We would therefore ask that no student with symptoms, nor their siblings, are in School until a negative test result has been confirmed, or the full household isolation period has been completed as per Government guidance.
- The best way to contain Coronavirus is through frequent hand-washing, use of hand sanitizer and maintaining social distancing. In addition, wear a face covering when moving around campus and in areas where you can't, over one metre for students and two metres for adults.

I have been extremely proud of all our students today, who have conducted themselves with calm maturity. Whilst today's news is undoubtedly worrying to students and parents alike, I am confident that our COVID-19 Action Plan is robust enough to protect the health of all in our Sidcot community, whilst allowing the School to continue to function.

I will continue to issue updates as necessary. However, should parents have any further concerns at this stage, please do not hesitate to make contact through the usual channels.

Yours sincerely



Iain Kilpatrick
Headmaster