



8 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

After a few days since we re-opened the school, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you.

### **New Processes and Procedures**

I have to say it has been wonderful to see students back into school full time. There is no substitute to seeing students "face to face" and being able to teach and nurture their learning in person. I know the staff team were delighted to be able to do their job in a much more complete way. I also think that the students themselves are relieved to be back to the familiar structures and learning routines that support them.

As you are aware, we have been working very hard to ensure that guidance is followed and that measures are in place, wherever possible, to reduce risks to having the whole school operating. As a reminder, our risk assessment document can be found on the website [here](#). As directed by the government, we have in place a number of control measures to reduce the likelihood of Covid transmission; we are constantly reviewing how these measures are being implemented.

On the whole, I am pleased to say that students have been following the new rules and procedures very well and the vast majority have re-adjusted to the routines and demands of a structured school day. For those who require a little more support, our pastoral and inclusion teams have been working to provide appropriate and bespoke support to ensure that the transition back into the school year is as smooth as possible.

Thank you for assisting the school with the staggered starts and ends of the school day. These mean that we can reduce the contact between the different year group "bubbles" in the school. Please could I remind parents to ensure that your child does not arrive to school too early, as this increases congestion on Crescent road and increases the contact between year group bubbles.

As you are aware from my previous letter, we have received notification of a positive Covid-19 test result within our school community and we have been advised by Public Health England ('PHE') that we do not need to ask any groups of students or staff to isolate. I appreciate that this news has caused some anxiety amongst parents and students and I wanted to outline the steps that were taken in reaching this decision:

- When notified, we contacted PHE which we must do whenever we are notified of a positive Covid-19 test result of a student or staff member who has been in school;
- PHE determined the circumstances of the positive case with us. They considered the extent to which that person had been in school and the degree to which they had direct contact with other members of the school community;
- They also discussed the measures that we have in place in school to keep students and staff safe.

Based on the outcome of these discussions, PHE carried out their own assessment of the risk of transmission within the school community and advised us of the steps we need to

take. Their assessment of the case, notified to you this morning, was that there was a very low risk of transmission and this is why we were advised that no further steps were required.

I would like to reassure all parents that we have undertaken rigorous risk assessment procedures in reopening the school and are following all of the DfE guidance in respect of both day to day operations and notification of positive results.

### **Symptoms and Testing**

Just as a reminder, government guidance on symptoms and testing is as follows:

- Students, staff and other adults should not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or have tested positive in at least the last 10 days;
- If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow the following isolation guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

The guidance outlines that that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). If they have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms. Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. Therefore, if a student is in a household where someone else is displaying symptoms, they must isolate for 14 days.

If a student or someone in the household has a positive result for COVID-19 you must notify the school. We will then contact our local Health Protection Team for guidance. Please also ensure that you notify the school if your child is self-isolating.

### **School Uniform, Lockers and Information Evenings**

Students are looking very smart in in their uniforms and the vast majority of students are wearing their uniform with pride. We know that a small number of families have struggled to obtain certain uniform items and that our uniform provider, Stevensons, have had some supply issues. If you are experiencing any difficulties, then please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor to make them aware and to discuss the issue.

Can I take the opportunity to remind you that students should have polish-able black shoes (trainers or trainer style shoes are not part of the school uniform). They should also bring in their equipment for learning, as we are limited in the amount and type of equipment that can be loaned.

Finally, all students have access to their lockers at the beginning and end of the day and should use these to store coats or large bags. This aids the movement of students around school.

Over the next few weeks we will be running virtual parent information events to discuss the year ahead. The heads of year will be in touch about these and I hope that you will find them useful as we work together to support your child. We hope to be able to offer a question and answer opportunity within these sessions.

I trust your son or daughter has had a positive start to the year. It is early days and we are getting used to new ways of doing things, but we are determined to work together as a community to ensure success. As ever, if you have any concerns or questions, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Johnson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Mr A Johnson**  
Headteacher

