

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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19th March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff

Weekly Bulletin #24

Positive Covid 19 case in school today

Today, we have had an onsite positive asymptomatic lateral flow test result for one of our Year 11 students. Close contacts of the student from lessons and/or travelling on the 007 Bus have been notified and our well-rehearsed plans and risk assessment have ensured that we have been able to support the family concerned; we have been able to act swiftly to protect other students and their families from further spread of the virus; and education can now continue either onsite or remotely for all of our students. We are now fully set up for 'hybrid' teaching which means that any self-isolating students can still be taught by their teacher who is in the lesson at school.

All areas of the school continue to receive enhanced cleaning through the day and every evening, and all areas of the school accessed by the students who tested positive have had additional cleaning. Form tutors have updated members of their tutor group on the situation and offered them reassurance. We are regularly reviewing all actions we are taking, and we believe appropriate measures have been taken to continue to ensure the safety of students and staff.

It remains vital that students who use school/public transport must sit with their bubble (year group) sitting in the same seats, and with the same people, both on the way to and from school. Students must clean their hands before getting on the bus in the morning, and upon arrival at QEGS. They must also make sure to use hand sanitiser as they leave their lessons before embarking on the bus at the end of the school day. This limits the risk of infection but also this could mean that whole bus groups do not need to self-isolate. **However, when students move seats or do not follow the guidance the risk of spreading infection is higher and the whole bus group may need to self-isolate.**

We will continue to update the community as more information arises. However, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school. Should you have any concerns about this please contact your child's Form Tutor or Progress Leader by email to avoid busy phone lines. <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/contact-us/>

Reminders:

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, you must inform school of the absence and you must request a test via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

You must also notify us of a positive test outcome using this school designated telephone number 07890 319042 during the school day or out of hours (even if this is late at night, the sooner we are notified the sooner we can respond and inform other parents of our actions). This telephone number **must only be used for positive Covid test outcomes**. This will ensure that parents can avoid other busy school telephone lines, notifying us quickly and at any time of day or night, enabling us to react and respond appropriately.

If a positive test is returned, the 10-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.

Further information about positive test outcomes 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>

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/>

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England and the DfE. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and to provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus will be a mild illness.

Please do not contribute to or partake in any social media commentary or speculation about this case or any other matters related to this. It can be particularly upsetting for the family affected and we want to ensure that our time and efforts are devoted to keeping your children safe and well educated, whether that be in school or at home.

Confirmation of term dates

Prior to Christmas the DfE advised schools to consider ending their term early by using one of their INSET days from the spring or summer. We ended our term on Thursday 17th December 2020 rather than Friday 18th December 2020. Therefore, we will not have an INSET day on Thursday 1st April 2021 and school will be open to all students and staff for normal lessons on this day. The Easter break will commence as planned on Friday 2nd April 2021.

Uniform Expectations

We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the majority of our students return to school looking very smart indeed- well done. In some cases, students are not wearing their uniform correctly so could we take this opportunity to remind parents of expectations with regard to some key issues arising- trousers should meet the top of the shoe and should not be rolled up to expose leg. On days students have PE, they should wear their PE kit but sports branded hoodies should not be worn. They need to wear a QEGS hoodie, QEGS midlayer or plain black sweatshirt with no logo. Skirts should be straight black and not stretchy and should reach no higher than 3cm above the knee. School shoes should be plain black leather type shoe and not a trainer or pump.

We appreciate your full support with this.

PhD place for ex-student

The Maths Department received fantastic news from ex-student Nathan C (left in 2017) that he has been offered a PhD place at the Cambridge University Computer Laboratory to read the Foundations of Mathematics, a very prestigious place to study and a great achievement. Congratulations Nathan!



Science competition winner

Lucy B in Year 7 submitted a short video into the Sustainable Futures Competition run by Sheffield Hallam University as part of the Science week 'Do something Different day'. Lucy had to come up with an innovative idea about how to reduce our environmental impact and to think about finding solutions to issues with energy, food, transport, resources, and nature. Well done Lucy you are one of the chosen winners and a prize from Sheffield Hallam is on its way to you.

The students have been excited and busy in their first full week back onsite. This enjoyment will be a just reward if we all continue to do our bit.

Thank you for the lovely, heart-warming messages from key members of our community, thanking our students for keeping them safe. It so nice to see and hear from people we have not seen for some time.

Please remind your child about our expectations in keeping themselves and others safe whilst in school and when travelling to and from our site. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff remains our priority.

Take care, stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher