

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



29th June 2021

Dear Parents

Advice to All Parents – Recent Covid Cases

A number of our students have recently returned positive COVID-19 PCR test results. A small number of students are still awaiting tests outcomes and they are self-isolating until results are known. Our well-rehearsed plans and risk assessment have ensured that we have been able to support the families 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.

The Year 8 'bubble' has been particularly affected and we now have 10 confirmed cases in this cohort with other test results pending. Therefore, as a precautionary measure and to limit further transmission, we are asking all Year 8 students to learn from home until Monday 5th July. Some Year 8 students will return after this date due to close contact with a confirmed case and they will have been contacted separately with specific details and dates. If unsure, please contact Mrs Caton catonh@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk, or Miss Robinson robinson@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk to confirm.

We have also had 3 positive cases in Year 10 and close contacts have been informed of their self-isolation period.

Therefore, if you have not been contacted, and your child is in any year group other than Year 8, it is safe for your child to attend school.

We remain in contact with the families concerned and we are delighted to say that they are generally well with only minor symptoms or asymptomatic.

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/>

Remote Learning Information:

All remote learning work is set via Microsoft Teams. Where a 'live lesson' has been scheduled, this should also appear in student outlook calendars.

Where a whole class or year group is not in school, teachers will conduct live and/or interactive lessons for every student in all year groups for every lesson, unless the staff member is absent. As in an ordinary classroom situation, the way a lesson is delivered will suit the content/objectives of the lesson. Teachers will be 'present' on TEAMS for every lesson and may conduct a totally live lesson; they may set a pre-recorded LOOM and then be available to answer questions during the lesson; or they may ask students to do an independent activity but again be present on TEAMS to support students. There will be times where a teacher will turn their video off and 'mute' themselves whilst students complete their learning.

Where an individual student is isolating, rather than a whole class, most lessons will be 'hybrid' lessons, where the teacher will conduct a lesson in the classroom and via Teams at the same time. Where this is not possible, due to staff absence or the nature of the lesson, work will be set on Teams.

Guidance for students and parents is available on the remote learning section of our website: <https://qegs.link/rl>
If a student has forgotten their password, this can be reset by any member of staff. Please email enquiries if you need support with this.

If you cannot find the work for any lesson, students can contact teachers via email or on the Team (ensuring they @ the teacher so that they get a notification of the message). For general issues, contact your child's Progress Leader or Miss Ward (ward@qegs.email).

Reminders:

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.

Students must sit with their bubble (year group) on school transport [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 arrive at and leave their lessons, and 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.**

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 or early in the morning, 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 results**. 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 with COVID-19 symptoms. 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)

However, there are a range of other possible symptoms, and so please be vigilant, continue to test regularly, and book a PCR test if at all worried.

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
- Take the lateral flow tests at least twice per week, before school on a Monday and Thursday

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 these cases or any other matters related to this. It can be particularly upsetting for the families 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.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity
Headteacher