

J/DR/SLT/DR/Ltrs/Prts/ComLI/MsM

29th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you that in recent days a pupil in Year 7 and three pupils in Year 11 have tested positive for Covid-19. It is clear that this situation is similar to those faced by schools nationally and in particular across Greater Manchester, as we are all experience rising rates of infection. We are currently working with the School's Covid Team at Rochdale Council and have completed an internal track and trace to reduce the risk of infection to pupils and staff.

We have put clear systems in place around the building and as such, we are able to identify close contacts. A close contact is defined as someone who has been within two metres of the confirmed case for more than 15 minutes; or within one metre for one minute; or has had a face-to-face conversation within one metre. Our track and trace procedures have involved examining seating plans, checking proximity for every lesson and identifying potential contacts before and after school, and at break and lunchtime.

My prime concern is the safety of our pupils, our staff and all of our families. To that end I have taken the decision to:

- Ask all of Year 11 pupils to self-isolate for 14 days to hopefully put a break on community transmission of the virus. As far as we can tell, all three pupils are 'not contacts' with each other in school. In the meantime we will provide Year 11 pupils with home learning work which reflects the lessons they are missing. We will also be starting to broadcast live lessons to pupils so that we can teach key content; assess understanding and provide feedback for our pupils.
- We have ensured that we rapidly 'close the loop' of transmission of the virus to pupils in Year 7 by asking pupils who are defined as close contacts to also self-isolate for 14 days. Again, we will be providing learning for pupils to complete at home.

Pupils who have not been identified as a contact in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 do not need to self-isolate and should attend school as normal.

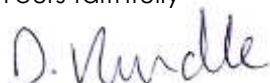
Please can I take this opportunity to remind everyone of the symptoms of Covid-19. Please do not send your child into school if they have the following symptoms:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than one hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything; or things smell or taste different to normal.

If any member of your household displays the above symptoms, the entire household must self-isolate until the household member receives a negative test result. **Please do not send your child to school if any of your household members have symptoms.**

This is a very challenging time and, as I have said previously, my prime concern is the health and safety of our pupils, their parents and carers, our staff and their families, whilst giving our pupils the learning and development opportunities. I will ensure that you remain updated of any further developments should they arise in the future.

Yours faithfully

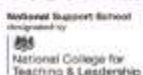


Mr D Randle
Headteacher

RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY



RESILIENCE



Tel: 01706 292800

Email: Info@hollingworthacademy.co.uk

Web: www.hollingworthacademy.co.uk

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Cornfield Street, Milnrow, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL16 3DR