

15th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Since my last letter to parents on December 9th there has been much activity surrounding the growth of infections in the south of the country. London has been placed into tier 3 restrictions, although, at the moment, schools are being told to remain open. Our end of term arrangements **do not change** (see letter dated 4th December 2020).

Throughout the autumn term we have had two confirmed covid cases amongst the staff and three confirmed student cases. On each occasion we have contacted PHE and acted on their advice. Fortunately, on each occasion, the infection was contained and we have not had to send home any student 'bubbles'. I thank the students, parents and staff for their complete co-operation and on-going support. Our students have been able to make the best use of a full school term unlike many other less fortunate schools.

It is impossible to predict how restrictions will develop in the new year. Previously I have shared contingency plans with you - these are the Educational Tiers (not to be confused with regional tiers of restriction) and can be viewed [here](#). If we are instructed to move to Educational Tier 2, 3, or, 4 then I will notify you as soon as that instruction is passed onto me. Please be vigilant and check the Academy website on Sunday 3rd January 2021 for any updates. Please be aware if there are unplanned changes and students are asked to learn from home then we may revert to using the 4th January 2021 as an INSET day.

Track and Trace during the holiday period

The DFE has contacted all schools requesting that for up to six days after the end of term, all schools have a system in place for notifying parents of positive cases where their child has been identified as being a close contact.

The guidance states "For the first six days after teaching ends, if a student or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school."

This means that between Thursday 17th December and Tuesday 22nd December you may be contacted by school and your child may be told to isolate for 10 days due to being an identified close contact of a positive COVID case. Please [click here](#) to see the NHS guidance for what to do if you are advised to isolate after being in contact with a positive case.

If between Thursday 17th December and Tuesday 22nd December your child tests positive for COVID **having developed symptoms on either Thursday 17th or Friday 18th December**, please contact the school via our welfare lines on 07437 794201 or 07379 862150. Messages will be checked each day until Tuesday 22nd December.

Please be ready to tell us:

- Your child's name and tutor group
- The date of their first symptoms and the symptoms they are experiencing
- The last date they were in school
- The date of the positive test (including a screenshot of the email or text notification)

We will then contact all parents of close contacts of that child via text message, notifying them of a positive case and advising their child to isolate for 10 days.



**Southfields
Academy**

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Guidance on isolation periods dependent on last day of contact with a student who tests positive can be seen below:

Date of student with a positive case last being in school	48-hour window from last day in school	Final day of isolation period for close contacts (10 days from date of contact)
Friday 11 December	Sunday 13 December	Monday 21 December
Monday 14 December	Wednesday 16 December	Thursday 24 December
Tuesday 15 December	Thursday 17 December	Friday 25 December
Wednesday 16 December	Friday 18 December	Saturday 26 December
Thursday 17 December	Saturday 19 December	Sunday 27 December

Many of you may be planning on travelling over Christmas to visit relatives. **It is essential that if you are notified of a positive case that you follow the NHS guidance on isolating.**

If your child develops symptoms in the days before the new term commences, please keep them at home to self-isolate, arrange a test as soon as possible and inform us if it is positive.

Finally, we hope you have a safe and peaceful time over the festive fortnight.

Yours sincerely



Wanda Golinska
Headteacher

