

24<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have been advised by Public Health England today that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 at the academy. **This has unfortunately affected a student in Year 8 who tested positive as part of our home testing programme yesterday.**

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England to take swift and appropriate actions. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child to ensure your family is safe. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

**We continue to test on Wednesdays and Sundays to ensure the safety of our community and share results at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> as well as at this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/cpYp79upAb>**

**Testing is the best weapon against this virus and it is an expectation. Alerts to remind you of this are in place.**

As you are aware, each year group is in their own 'bubble' and zone at JQA and students are kept separate and do not mix with students outside of their year group on site. We have extensive safety measures in place, including hand washing on gates and regularly and also well-ventilated classrooms with all students facing forwards and in strict seating plans. **Our academy is as safe as it can be for our students and staff.**

The small number of children who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus yesterday evening, received a letter informing them that their child must stay at home for 10 days and continue to test on Wednesdays and Sundays, informing us of results..

**The school remains open for all children and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.**

**As an additional precautionary measure, we will insist on students in Year 8, in the first instance, wearing masks in corridors, communal spaces and classrooms to make sure we contain this case. Staff who teach Year 8 will also take additional measures.**

All families should ensure they adhere to the national guidance regarding the [national restrictions in place in England](#):

**Social distancing is still very important. You should stay 2 metres apart from anyone who is not in your household or support bubble where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings) if you cannot stay 2 metres apart.**

**You should follow the guidance on how to [stop the spread of coronavirus at all times, including if you have been vaccinated against COVID-19.](#)**

**You should follow this guidance in full to limit spreading COVID-19. It is underpinned by law.**

You can help to protect your friends and family by downloading the [NHS COVID-19 App](#).

You should talk to your child about the 'hands, face, space' approach and ensure they understand their responsibility to wear a face covering in classrooms, corridors and staircases, wash hands regularly and do everything possible to maintain a safe distance at social times as well on their journeys to and from the Academy. This is important to keep themselves, your family and others safe.

**You should ensure your child arrives at the academy every day with a face covering. We thank you for your support with this.**

### **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 and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information 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>

The household isolation period includes the day the first person in your household's symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, your 10 day isolation period starts on the 15th of the month, your isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25th and you can return to your normal routine.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

## 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 is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely



**Mr J Barton**

Head of School