

December Letters 2020



1st December 2020

Dear Parent

I hope that you and your family are well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support over the course of this term. Our students have proved themselves to be both adaptable and resilient and staff have been working hard to ensure that they are making progress in line with our high expectations in spite of any time they may have missed from lessons. A key part of our approach to engaging with parents is through parents' evenings and it is hard to say at this stage when we will next, physically, be able to host one on the actual college premises. To enable parent/teacher conversations to take place we have invested in software called "Schoolcloud Parents Evening" which will enable us to host parents' evenings online. The software looks very promising and we are excited to be rolling our virtual parents' evening programme out over the coming weeks.

Dates for parents' evenings will be as follows:

- Year 11 - 10th December 2020
- Year 9 - 13th January 2021
- Year 7 - 11th February 2021
- Year 10 - 25th February 2021
- Year 8 - 11th March 2021

Further details on timings and how to make appointments and access the system will be provided closer to the specific date of each evening. The system is quite intuitive and does not require the downloading of any software. A smartphone with a camera is the basic requirement but you will be able to access the parents' evenings on any mobile device, laptop or PC. If you do not have access to a video enabled device, please contact us at college for further advice.

Yours sincerely

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

2nd December 2020

Dear Parents,

We have been advised by Public Health that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the college. **In this instance only two students identified as being close contacts have been told to self isolate from Tuesday 1st December to Tuesday 15th December. Both of these students are in Year 8. The close contact did not happen in a classroom setting hence the low numbers of students affected.**

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide you with advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. The college is open and **providing your child remains well they can continue to attend college as normal.** We will keep this under review.

For each confirmed case, Worcestershire Public Health undertake a robust risk assessment

with the college to identify the contacts in college of any confirmed case taking into account the protective measures the college have put in place and the activities during the infectious period for the case. The aim of the risk assessment is to ensure all contacts are identified and preventive measures are put in place whilst minimising the educational impact on pupils. The college has implemented COVID protective measures and controls to reduce mixing of pupils to prevent whole bubbles being collapsed unnecessarily. In some instances only identifiable close contacts are asked to self isolate, in other situations the risk assessment may indicate the whole bubble needs to self-isolate, this approach reduces the numbers of pupils having to self-isolate at home for 14 days.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops any of the symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms started. Anyone with the symptoms is eligible for testing and should arrange for this via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members even if well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

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

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If your child has symptoms, try and keep them as far away from other members of your household as possible. It is especially important that they stay away from anyone who is clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable with whom you share a household.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> 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/> Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

Dear Parent

We have been asked to share this document with you about Perdiswell Primary School as some of you may wish to comment on the consultation. This consultation will have no impact on our college.

Yours sincerely

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

11th December 2020

Dear Parent,

You will be aware that the government has announced that schools can alter their calendar to end term a day early. I think this announcement is too little, too late and puts schools and families in a potentially difficult position.

I have decided that the college will remain open on Friday 18th December. It will be a non-uniform day and on this occasion we will not be asking for a student contribution. During morning registration students will take part in a Virtual Christmas Liturgy. Lessons one and two will be as normal and students will then spend the final lesson of the day with their form tutor. The college day will finish at 12:35pm as planned and school buses will be available to transport students home. I would ask that you encourage your child to make their way straight home and not to make plans to go with friends into town.

There are several reasons why I have come to this decision;

- Many parents have just returned to work after a period of lockdown and further disruption would, I believe, be unhelpful and unwelcome.
- Many of our feeder primary schools are remaining open and I am conscious that if parents have children in both primary and secondary schools they will potentially be left having to arrange childcare at short notice if the college were to close.
- The college has just had a teacher training day on Friday 4th December.
- Our caterers have organised stock and staffing and closing would cause disruption and waste.
- Lessons are planned and students do not need additional disruption.
- Confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in the college remain very low with our last partial bubble closure occurring on the 16th November.

I hope this gives you an insight into how I came to this decision and as always if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the college. I will be sending out further information next week in relation to how confirmed COVID-19 cases are to be reported during the holiday period.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

18th December 2020

Dear Parent,

Following yesterday's announcement of a staggered return to college in January. I am writing to give you some details on what this will entail.

Monday 4th January will now be a teacher Training Day and there will be no online learning on this day. This day is being used as per government guidance to give the college time to prepare for testing on site. Further details about this will be issued in due course. Year 11 students only will return on Tuesday 5th January and will follow their normal timetable. All other year groups will access remote learning in line with their usual timetables. Further details about this will also be issued in due course.

If you are a key worker and have difficulty arranging childcare from Tuesday 5th January to Friday 8th January inclusive please fill in the details on the link we sent to you recently outlining which days your child will be in college. We will keep the children of key workers in year group bubbles. Please include details of the work that you do so that we can ensure we are giving priority to the appropriate children.

Yours sincerely

Greg McClarey
Headteacher