

1st March 2021



Dear Parent,

Thank you for your patience over the past week as we continue to plan for our students returning to college from Monday 8th March. There are many factors to consider but uppermost in our minds is the health and safety of students and staff.

If you have consented to your child having a lateral flow test, we will be carrying out the initial test during your child's first day in college. We are staggering the return of students across 3 days with different start times for some Year groups. This is to minimise student to student contact both in college and on their journey to college, prior to their first lateral flow test. Our aim is to have all students back in college following their normal timetable, where possible, by Thursday 11th March.

In summary the return to college for each year group will be as follows:

Monday 8th March – Only Years 10 and 11 in college

Year 11 arrive between 8.30am and 8.45am. School buses will be running as normal for Year 11 students only. The canteen will be available for Year 11 students at lunchtime only.

Year 10 students make their own way to school arriving between 11.30am and 11.45am. Students eligible for free school meals will still be able to order food. All other Year 10 students must bring a packed lunch.

Year 7, 8 and 9 remote learning at home. Please note there will be no live lessons, but resources will be uploaded to google classroom.

Tuesday 9th March – Only Years 8 and 9 in college

Year 9 arrive between 8.30am and 8.45am. School buses will be running as normal for Year 9 students only. The canteen will be available for Year 9 students at lunchtime only.

Year 8 students make their own way to school arriving between 11.30am and 11.45am. Students eligible for free school meals will still be able to order food. All other Year 8 students must bring a packed lunch.

Year 7, 10 and 11 remote learning from home. Please note there will be no live lessons, but resources will be uploaded to google classroom.

Wednesday 10th March – Only Year 7 in college

Year 7 students arrive between 8.30am and 8.45am. School buses will be running as normal. The Cabin will be available for Year 7 students at lunchtime only.

Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 remote learning from home. Please note there will be no live lessons, but resources will be uploaded in google classroom.

Thursday 11th March

All students back in college arriving between 8.30am and 8.45am. School buses and the college canteen services will be operating as normal.

I appreciate and understand that this schedule may cause some inconvenience for parents in terms of getting children to college for the later start times on Monday and Tuesday, especially if they normally travel on a school bus. Our rationale for the staggered start on these days is that if a student were to test positive, with their first lateral flow test in college, this schedule reduces the number of potential close contacts who would then have to self-isolate for ten days. We recognise that this would be extremely frustrating for both students and parents after such a long period out of school.

We are aiming to have all students, whose parents have consented, tested three times in college by Thursday 18th March. From this date students will then move to home testing and I will send out further details about this as soon as they arrive. Testing will inevitably cause some disruption to lessons over the coming days, but we will continue to remind our students of the significance of acting at all times for the greater good.

On students return we will be asking them to wear face coverings in lessons and when moving in the corridors. This is in line with government guidance and will be reviewed at the end of term. In classrooms of up to 30, students cannot socially distance, so we believe that this additional step along with the hygiene protocols we had in place last term will ensure we continue to prioritise the health of everyone in our community.

I am optimistic that this schedule provides us with the best and most realistic opportunity to get school back up and running again quickly for your child. Thank you as always for your support and if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at college.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

10th March 2021

Dear Parent,

We have now carried out the first of three lateral flow tests on all students who had been given consent to participate. I am pleased to report that there have been no positive test results which means that all students will be able to return from tomorrow, Thursday 11th March. This is wonderful news and means that students can begin to rebuild those all important face to face relationships with each other and our staff. The college is on schedule to have all testing completed by 17th March.

As I knew they would, our students have responded magnificently to the testing and the extra demand of wearing face coverings in lessons and we are very proud of them.

From Thursday 11th March school buses will run as normal for students in all year groups and they must continue to wear face coverings while on the bus. We ask that all students arrive between 8.30am and 8.45am. Please note that students will only be allowed on site from 8.30am.

Students will once again be able to obtain food in college and this will follow the routines they were used to before Christmas.

I appreciate that certain items of school uniform have been difficult to source during this lockdown so can I ask that you continue to inform us of any uniform issues you may be

experiencing and please be assured of our support.

It is important that we remain vigilant and continue to reinforce the importance and relevance of our various approaches to keeping all in our community safe. Most important in our approach is that no staff member or student comes into college if they or anyone in their household has Covid-19 symptoms. Further details of our approaches can be found in the college risk assessment. This document is reviewed on an ongoing basis and the latest version is available at www.blessededward.co.uk/about-us/covid-19-updates/

As always if you have any questions or concerns, about any aspect of your child's education here at Blessed Edward's please do not hesitate to contact us. Finally, can I thank you for your support and all that you have contributed to ensure that your child has had a positive online learning experience during the lockdown period. It is and will always remain a privilege to work alongside you.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

March 11th 2021

Dear Parent,

Thank you for your patience and trust over the last couple of weeks as we reflected on the information we were given by the DfE about the replacement for GCSE examinations. We are working hard to ensure that we have all the necessary information in place to accurately and fairly award grades this summer. Heads of Department are producing a rationale for awarding grades in the different subject areas in response to the Assessment and Evidence guidance provided by Ofqual. I hope that the details set out in this letter will provide you with answers to your questions and give you a sense of what is expected of our students over the coming weeks.

How will grades be awarded this summer?

Grades for GCSEs and other qualifications will be based on a process involving teacher assessment against national standards, internal quality assurance, and external quality assurance by the exam boards.

The national process defined by the Department for Education and the exams' regulator, Ofqual is as follows:

1. Teachers will assess students against a national standard. Exam boards have said they will define these standards before the Easter break.
2. Departments will submit grades which will be quality assured by the college. This internal quality assurance process will be signed off by the exam board to ensure it is rigorous and in line with national standards.
3. Our college results will be quality assured externally by the exam boards.
4. If the exam boards are confident in our submitted results, then they will award students their final grades.
5. If students do not think their results are accurate, they will have the right to

appeal. **What about loss of learning / impact of Covid?**

This year, teachers will only assess students on content they have been taught, because of the continued disruption caused by the pandemic. This means students will not be disadvantaged if they individually, their whole class or whole year group have been unable to complete their full course. However, grades can only be submitted on the basis of the evidence we have of students' performance, even if that evidence covers less of the course than usual.

What evidence will be used?

Teachers will take into account a student's performance across a range of evidence from both Year 10 and Year 11 to inform their judgement. This evidence will include classwork, homework, in class assessments, in school examinations, Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) where applicable and previous report grades. Different departments may use varying sources of evidence, and there is no requirement for any one type of assessment or evidence to be considered.

Students will be given two opportunities to influence their final grade in two assessment windows that we will be holding after the Easter break. We will hold these assessments in the Sports Hall in order to ensure that all students take the assessments at the same time. Each assessment will be 45 minutes long. Students will be made aware of the topics being assessed and will be supported through the revision process.

Please be assured that the questions will focus on material that has been studied in college through face-to face teaching.

These assessments will be important in influencing final awarded grades and students will need to continue to work hard in order to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills. Students who may underachieve for genuine reasons such as illness or covid related absence will not be unfairly graded overall. However, students do have this opportunity to significantly influence their final grade and demonstrate what they are capable of where previous assessments might not have reflected their true ability at that time.

In each assessment students will receive a percentage score but not a GCSE grade. These assessments will be part of the collection of evidence to influence the final awarded subject grade. The exam boards are producing assessment materials that will be sent to us before Easter which we have the option to use. The dates of the assessment windows are:

Assessment window 1: w/c 19th April 2021

Assessment window 2: w/c 10th May 2021

Students who would usually have extra time or other access arrangements in exams will benefit from the same arrangements during these assessment windows. All subjects which have a written exam component will be involved. Fine Art, Graphics, Photography and Textiles do not have a written exam so the final awarded grades will be based on the student's portfolio. Please note that teachers will not be able to share final grades with students before results day as this would be considered exam malpractice. This year results day is Thursday August 12th.

What should students do to improve their grades?

The best thing students can do is continue to attend lessons, learn, act on feedback from their teachers, revise, and read around their subject. Their final grade will be based on their performance, and so their outcomes are ultimately in their hands. I do appreciate that there is a lot to take in, still plenty to do and lots of learning to take place but please be assured that we will be with the students all the way through

this, working to ensure that every student is given every opportunity to maximise their final awarded grade.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, about any aspect of your child's education here at Blessed Edward's please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

19th March 2021

Dear Parent,

I was delighted to welcome back our Year 7 students after a challenging but very productive lockdown period. On the whole, Year 7 students conducted themselves extremely maturely throughout lockdown with their online learning and the staff at Blessed's would like to pass on their praise to the students and thanks to parents for all your support. The Year 7 students have returned to school life extremely well. They have been an absolute credit to you, adapting to a slightly changed routine while we carry out the lateral flow tests. It has been lovely seeing them reestablish their friendships and getting back to relatively normal school life.

Pupils have been reminded over the last week about the school's virtues: loving, prayerful, hopeful, kind, respectful, honest, grateful, just, giving, knowledgeable, curious and resilient. These are virtues that we encourage our students to demonstrate as they are the virtues of a person of good character. It has been lovely discussing with pupils how they have shown these virtues over the lockdown period. Please feel free to encourage these virtues at home too.

Looking forward to the next few months, we have decided not to change the teaching groups at all in Year 7 as pupils have had enough upheaval this year and we recognise the need for familiarity and a comforting and safe environment for all rather than the anxiety that comes with change. Setting for English and Maths lessons will now happen when the pupils return in September for Year 8.

Finally, if you haven't already downloaded our 'MyEd' app it is available as part of our parentmail email system. We have been sending messages via the app and it is an excellent form of communication between us and parents. The app can be downloaded here <https://www.myedschoolapp.com>

You can send messages to the school too or you can email your child's tutor. Here is a little reminder of tutor details:

Mr Ellis - 7A- dre13@blessededward.co.uk

Miss Case -7C - sjc91@blessededward.co.uk

Mr Robinson - 7J - br20@blessededward.co.uk

Miss Wallace- 7L - beomeg@blessededward.co.uk

Mr Winwood- 7P - jrw63@blessededward.co.uk

Mr Ebbage - 7S - are13@blessededward.co.uk

Mr Williams -7W - jsw43@blessededward.co.uk

Mrs Pritchard - Head of Year 7 - njp30@blessededward.co.uk

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either your child's tutor or myself. Yours faithfully,

Mrs Pritchard

Head of Year 7

19th March 2021

Dear Parent/guardian,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our Year 8 students to the college after a challenging recent period for them due to the most recent lockdown. I am really proud of how the students adapted to the process of live lessons and online learning and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support in making this brand new style of learning a success for the students.

It is a pleasure to see the students now back in college, looking so smart and enthusiastic and ready for the new challenges that lie ahead during the rest of Year 8. Please do ensure that students are supplied with sanitiser and face masks as per the guidance sent out by Mr McClarey earlier this year.

Please do not hesitate to contact Form Tutors or myself if you have any concerns about your son or daughter. As well as email you can also communicate with your child's tutor using the student planner. I would also encourage you to download the college's MyEd app if you have not already done so as this app contains a lot of useful information and has now become the primary method of communication from college to parents.

Just one date for your diary; the Easter break begins on Thursday April 1st and more details about the end of term will be released in due course.

If you have any queries regarding uniform, the policy is on the parents section of the website. We recognise that there may be challenges with regards to getting hold of new uniform during lockdown, due to growth and wear and tear, so please do get in touch if this is currently an issue. Could I also ask that you ensure your child's belongings have their name in them so that they can be identified if they are sent to Pupil Reception?

A reminder that if your child brings a mobile phone to College for use before or after school it is their responsibility to ensure that it is switched off and out of sight on school grounds during the school day. If your child is unable to attend College for any reason please contact the office before College begins to inform your child's Tutor of their absence on 01905 352245 or again, use the MyEd app.

I look forward to working together with you during the rest of this

academic year. Yours sincerely,

Mr K.Dobson

Head of Year 8

Dear Parent,

It has been so good to see our students back in school again in the last week. Year 9 students have, as always, been smartly dressed and ready to learn with renewed enthusiasm. I am extremely proud of how they worked during closure, coping admirably with the demands of the technology and adapting well to the style of lessons online. Equally, they have been extremely responsible in their return to school and have all observed the new rules to keep them safe extremely well.

I do understand that some students have found the move back to school anxiety-provoking and if you have any concerns about your child's current happiness or wellbeing please either urge them to speak to a member of staff or contact your child's tutor directly. We can reassure them that it is now safe to return because of the further measures that we have put in place, such as wearing masks more inside the building and regular testing. I am grateful for your support in giving permission for your child to be tested: the students are now used to the system and it has worked well. We also understand that some students have outgrown their uniform and that it has been difficult to replace some items due to the closure of School Togs at present. Please get in touch if this is an issue.

Your child has now received a letter confirming their Option choices and they can now return to school with a renewed focus on preparing for their GCSE courses starting next year. I would urge students to use the rest of Year 9 to foster good study habits, making sure they use their planner to organise their homework tasks and getting used to setting aside time to study and then time to relax.

As regards dates for your diary, you will be aware that we have had to review our calendar again in the light of this term's closure. We break for Easter on April 1st and further dates such as for the final assessment period of the year and reports will be sent to you shortly.

Finally, to ensure that you do receive up to date information promptly, just a reminder that the My Ed app is available to download and it enables you both to receive letters and to reply quickly and easily. The link is: <https://www.myedschoolapp.com>

As usual, do not hesitate to contact me by e mail if you have any concerns or questions - pjp10@blessededward.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Ms P Pratty

Head of Year 9

19th March 2021

Dear parent,

I would like to start by saying how wonderful it was to welcome your children back into school after such a long time away from the classroom. I know, from speaking with many of you, that it has been a difficult few months for a number of families within our year group. Please know that we will continue to support both you and your children in the weeks and months ahead.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the College and your children for all your support and encouragement that you have provided during this period of online learning. As a parent myself, I know that it has not always been easy. I have been, as I

am sure you are, very proud of

the reports that I have received from my colleagues in relation to the engagement, resilience and motivation that your children have shown towards their online lessons. However, I think we can all agree, that online lessons are no substitute for time in a classroom and I have enjoyed returning to teach students on a face to face basis.

The priority at the moment is to safeguard and promote your child's mental health and to allow them to have the time and space to get reacquainted and re-establish those important face to face relationships with their peers and their teachers. I understand that some students (and parents) may be anxious about the return to College but I would signpost you to the letters that have been sent by Mr McClarey regarding the measures that have been put in place to keep all members of our College community safe. However, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Alongside this is the reality that in a few short months, your child will have finished Year 10 and will be moving into Year 11. This can be a real time of worry for students (and parents), especially considering the amount of face to face teaching time that they have missed in both years 9 and 10. It will be hard work for all (students, teachers and parents) and there will be many pressures to face and difficulties to overcome. However, whilst a little bit of pressure can bring out the best in us, too much can cause students to crumble under the weight of expectation. It is a very fine line to balance so please reach out to us if you feel that your child is struggling over the next few weeks and months. If they seem withdrawn, indifferent or out of sorts, please let us know so that we can continue to work with you and them to help ensure their success.

The second priority is to support students in re-establishing positive routines that will ensure that they reach their full potential and that they are prepared for the next step of their education when they leave our College. It would be remiss not to acknowledge that children across the country have missed a significant amount of face to face teaching and that some habits or behaviours may have been lost or forgotten. The time in lessons will be used to reiterate expectations and revisit any areas of the curriculum that may have been missed. The key message for students must be that they make the most of every minute of every lesson. There are some simple steps that your child could take that would offer some "quick wins". These include

1. Organisation and preparation – students should aim to be fully prepared for every lesson by having the correct books, equipment (including green pens and sanitiser) and having completed any homework to the best of their ability.
2. A healthy sleep schedule and diet so that they are well rested and fuelled for the school day. Please continue to monitor your child's use of social media and mobile devices and please let us know of any concerns.

As it is a return to school after an extended period of time, can I please draw your attention to the following reminders.

Uniform

Thank you for your continued support of the uniform policy. Our uniform is a way of students showing their pride in belonging to our College community and are linked to our high expectations across all aspects of College life. If you have any issues with the supply of school uniform, please inform us to make us aware. Please can I also remind you that all coats are to be navy or black with no large logos.

Mobile Phones

Students are reminded that mobile phones should not be used in College. They should be

turned off and placed in their bags before they arrive at College. Any student who is found to be using a mobile phone during the College day will have it confiscated. Please contact the school office if you need to get a message to your child during the College day.

Masks, Sanitiser and Equipment

Please can I remind you that students should be using face coverings on College buses and at all times within the school building (including lessons). If you have any queries regarding the use of face covering please contact us at College. Students should also have their own personal bottle of sanitiser to use during the College day, and there are plenty of sanitising stations around the College building. For the foreseeable future, students will not be allowed to share equipment, so it is very important that they have their own supply of stationery and a scientific calculator. Please let us know if you have any difficulties in procuring these items.

Finally, can I reiterate my thanks for your continuing support. As always, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any member of the College staff if you have any questions or concerns with any aspect of College life.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C M Taylor

Head of Year 10

March 15th 2021

Dear Parent,

A big welcome back to all of our Year 11 students, and well done to each and every one of them on what was a very successful and positive return to College. Their hard work and fantastic attitude throughout lockdown was commendable, and I speak for every member of staff when I say how pleased we are to see them all again.

Myself and Year 11 tutors are stressing to students the importance of good organisation and focus over the next few weeks. There is still a lot of work to do in preparation for the 2 assessment windows after Easter, and I know that Year 11 students will use these opportunities to build on their effort in their GCSE subjects over the last 2 years.

By now students should have already got their College/Apprenticeship applications underway – thank you for your support with this. I know that they are all looking forward to taking their next step towards the future from September onwards.

I will be sending out details of how students can buy College Year books and Hoodies in the near future. These can be purchased as a memento of their time in College. We are currently in the process of securing a venue for a prom – the planned date for this is June 24th. We hope that this will go ahead, but we have stressed to students that in such an ever-changing situation nothing is 100% guaranteed, so it would be wise to wait before buying any dresses/suits etc. for the occasion. Again, I will keep you updated about this as things progress.

We will break up for Easter on April 1st and students return on Monday 19th April.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact tutors, subject teachers or myself so that we can work together to support your children. Thank you for your ongoing support of all aspects of College life

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Jones
Head of Year 11

19th March 2021

Dear Parent,

We have now completed three lateral flow tests for all the students whose parents gave consent and we have had no positive results which is extremely reassuring. There will be no further testing of students in college and we now move to the next phase which involves students being tested at home. All secondary aged students will now be offered tests which they can use at home to test twice a week.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals.

We understand that each child has individual needs. Many children will adapt to testing becoming part of their routine, others will find it more challenging. Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend college whether they take part or not. Students will be given testing kits in college today along with guidance on how to take the test and report the results. These kits will be given out to students on a regular basis.

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

If a student has a positive test result, they will need to stay home and self-isolate. The current guidance states that the student should be taken for a confirmatory PCR test at a local testing site. If this test is negative the student can return to college. If this test is also positive, then the student needs to continue to self-isolate in line with national guidance. Please keep us informed of any positive test results so that we can advise and work with you to ensure that your child can access remote learning if they are well enough to do so.

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend college whether they take part in testing or not. I am strongly encouraging all students to take part in the national testing programme so that we continue to protect the most vulnerable in our college community.

Please note that the test kits your child receives are for their use only. If you require additional test kits for other members of your household please visit this website <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Thank you as always for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

22nd March 2021

Dear Parent,

As part of our Lenten fundraising, we will be holding a non-uniform day on the last day of

term, Thursday 1st April. The money raised will be donated to the Father Hudson's Society as part of their annual Good Shepherd Appeal.

Students are reminded to dress in their own **smart** and **modest** clothes and pay £1 for the privilege. All students who have a PE lesson on this day must still bring their kit as usual.

Thank you for continuing to support the college in all our outreach work especially during the season of Lent.

Yours sincerely,

Danny McCormack

Deputy Headteacher

Vacancies

Date: 24th March 2021

Requirement for Your Child to Self-Isolate for 10 Days

Dear Parent,

We have been informed by Public Health England local health protection team that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school, as identified by NHS Test and Trace. All contacts of a confirmed case must follow the national guidance, stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days. This is because it can take several days following contact with an infected person before an individual develops symptoms or the virus can be detected.

We have followed the national guidance and have identified that your child in Year 9 has been in close contact with the affected individual. In line with national legislation, your child **must** now stay at home and self-isolate up to and including 1st April 2021. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in the community. I appreciate how frustrating this must be for your child and your family and please be assured that we will continue to provide online learning resources for your child via their various google classrooms.

This requirement means not leaving home for a holiday for the full 10 days.

At the end of the 10 day period of self-isolation, if your child is well, then they can return to usual activities on 2nd April 2021.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 10-day self-isolation period. Please note that even if your child were to receive a subsequent negative LFD test or PCR test the requirement to self isolate still applies

Please see the link to the National Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

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

Please inform the school if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 and/or tests positive for COVID 19.

Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (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, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child 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.

Further information

Further information is available at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

For COVID related support including during self-isolation, contact Here2Help on 01905 768053 or use the web link at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help

For health-related support visit Starting Well (Herefordshire & Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust): <https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/covid19>

Yours sincerely

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

Date: 24th March 2021

Dear Parents,

We have been advised by Public Health that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the college.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health. All close contacts of the student concerned have been identified and have started their period of self isolation. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a

mild illness.

The college remains open and providing your child remains well they can continue to attend the setting as normal. We will keep the situation under regular review and keep you informed of any further developments.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops any symptoms of COVID-19, they should **remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared**. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing 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.

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

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

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 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

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

For most people, coronavirus (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

24th March 2021

Dear Parent,

Thank you for co-operation and support today in collecting your child from college. I share your frustration that so soon after returning their education is once again affected by the ongoing pandemic. Your child will be able to access remote learning from Thursday 25th March until we break up for the Easter holidays on Thursday 1st April.

Remote learning will consist of resources uploaded to google classrooms which your child will complete each day. Please note that we will not be able to provide “live” lessons for your child as teachers will be teaching the Year 9 students who are still in college. Teachers will use a mix of recorded lessons from providers such as Oak Academy and the BBC as well as written tasks created by their teachers. Our aim will be to ensure that your child does not fall behind.

Work will be posted each day in line with your child’s normal timetable. Teachers will endeavour to get this work online in a timely manner but I am sure you can appreciate they also have to cater for the students who will be in college. Students should follow the structure of the normal school day and have a break from 11.10 to 11.35 am and take their lunch between 1.35 and 2.15pm.

Please let us know if you need support with accessing remote learning for your child and do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

Date: 29/03/2021

Dear Parent,

We have been informed by Public Health England local health protection team that there has been a suspected case of COVID-19 within the college, as identified by NHS Test and Trace. The student concerned has tested positive on a lateral flow test taken at home. We are awaiting the results of a confirmatory PCR test and will share this with you as soon as we are made aware. As a precaution we have been advised that all close contacts of this case must follow the national guidance, stay at home and self-isolate until the results of the PCR test are confirmed. If the PCR test comes back as negative then your child will be able to return to college. If the PCR test comes back as positive then your child will have to self isolate for 10

days. I am awaiting confirmation of when this self isolation would end.

I appreciate how frustrating this must be for your child and your family and please be assured that we will continue to provide online learning resources for your child via their various google classrooms.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 10-day self-isolation period. Please note that even if your child were to receive a subsequent negative LFD test or PCR test the requirement to self isolate still applies

Please see the link to the National Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

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

Please inform the school if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 and/or tests positive for COVID 19.

Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (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, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child 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.

Further information

Further information is available at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For COVID related support including during self-isolation, contact Here2Help on 01905 768053 or use the web link at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help

For health-related support visit Starting Well (Herefordshire & Worcestershire Health &

Care NHS Trust): <https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/covid19>

Yours sincerely

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

30th March 2021

Dear Parent,

Thank you for co-operation and support yesterday in collecting your child from college. I share your frustration that so soon after returning their education is once again affected by the ongoing pandemic. As of this morning the child who had a positive lateral flow test result is still awaiting the results of their confirmatory PCR test. As soon as we are made aware of the result I will share it with you along with what this will mean for your child.

Your child will be able to access remote learning from Tuesday 30th March until we break up for the Easter holidays on Thursday 1st April. Remote learning will consist of resources uploaded to google classrooms which your child will complete each day. Please note that we will not be able to provide "live" lessons for your child as teachers will be teaching the Year 9 students who are still in college.

Teachers will use a mix of recorded lessons from providers such as Oak Academy and the BBC as well as written tasks created by their teachers. Our aim will be to ensure that your child does not fall behind.

Work will be posted each day in line with your child's normal timetable. Teachers will endeavour to get this work online in a timely manner but I am sure you can appreciate they also have to cater for the students who will be in college. Students should follow the structure of the normal school day and have a break from 11.10 to 11.35 am and take their lunch between 1.35 and 2.15pm.

Please let us know if you need support with accessing remote learning for your child and do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

Date: 31/03/2021

Requirement for Your Child to Self-Isolate for 10 Days

Dear Parent,

We have been informed by Public Health England local health protection team that the student who tested positive on a lateral flow test taken at home has subsequently tested positive on a confirmatory PCR test. We are now dealing with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the college, as identified by NHS Test and Trace. All contacts of a confirmed case must follow the national guidance, stay at home and self isolate for 10 days. This is because it can take several days following contact with an infected person before an individual develops symptoms or the

virus can be detected.

We have followed the national guidance and have identified that your child in Year 9 has been in close contact with the affected individual. In line with national legislation, your child **must** now stay at home and self-isolate up to and including **5th April 2021**. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in the community. I appreciate how frustrating this must be for your child and your family and please be assured that we will continue to provide online learning resources for your child via their various google classrooms.

This requirement means not leaving home for a holiday for the full 10 days. At the end of the 10 day period of self-isolation, if your child is well, then they can return to usual activities on **6th April 2021**.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 10-day self-isolation period. Please note that even if your child were to receive a subsequent negative LFD test or PCR test the requirement to self isolate still applies

Please see the link to the National Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

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

Please inform the school if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 and/or tests positive for COVID 19.

Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (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)

Financial support if you have to take time off work to care for your child while they are self isolating.

If you are on a low income and you need to take time off work to care for your child while they are self isolating, you may be eligible for financial support from your local authority through the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

The Test and Trace Support Payment scheme is open to people who live in England and who meet the following criteria:

- They are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate; this is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- Are employed or self-employed
- Are unable to work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- They are currently receiving or are the partner of someone in the same household who is receiving at least one of the following benefits: Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Pension Credit

Their child or young person is:

- aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Discretionary payments are also available for people on low incomes who are not on means-tested benefits but who may still face hardship as a result of the requirement to self-isolate. Your local authority may have additional eligibility criteria in place for discretionary payments.

If you are eligible, you will receive a £500 payment from your local authority in addition to any benefits and Statutory Sick Pay you receive currently.

Your local authority will contact your child's school to verify the information you provide about your child as part of the process of confirming whether you are eligible for a payment. You can see the full eligibility criteria for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme and find out how to apply at:
<https://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment>

If you think you meet the eligibility criteria listed above and would like to apply to your local authority for a payment from the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, you should provide this letter to your local authority to support your application. You will not be able to make an application for a payment from the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme without this letter.

Yours sincerely

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

31st March 2021

Dear Parent,

I am writing to let you know that after much consideration the college has decided not to enter

Year 10 students for their English Literature GCSE this academic year. The students will instead take their English Literature examinations along with their other GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11. English teachers will be sharing this information with students today.

Our Year 10 students have worked with maturity and determination during two lockdown situations. It has become clear to us however that the processes and evidence required by exam boards to support the awarding of grades this summer disadvantages our Year 10 students and could lead to them being given a lower grade than they are capable of. As a school I believe we have a moral imperative to ensure that our students achieve their potential hence the decision to defer entry in English Literature until the end of Year 11.

Please be assured that the work your child has completed so far, both in college and online, remains valid and of value and will be revisited during the preparation for the summer 2022 examinations. The upcoming Year 10 English Literature internal assessment on Monday 26th April should still be taken seriously by students as it will give an indication of current attainment. This could also then be used to support teacher assessed grades if we find ourselves in a similar situation in the run up to next summer's GCSE examinations or if our students encounter further disruption to their studies.

Thank you in advance for your support and understanding and please be assured that this decision has been taken to ensure that every student achieves their potential in English Literature. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at college.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

Headteacher