

November 2020 letters



Dear Parent

Please be aware of the following upcoming dates. Students will be finishing at 1.35pm on Wednesday 18th November for a teacher curriculum planning afternoon. School transport has been booked to accommodate this early finish. There is also a teacher training day on Friday 4th December so no students will be in college on this day.

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

Dear Parent,

I am writing to make you aware that from Monday 9th of November staff and students will have to wear face coverings when moving to and from lessons and in communal areas of the college. There may also be other times during the day, in line with our college risk assessment, when students are asked to wear their face covering and the expectation will be that they comply with this request. If there is a reason why your child is unable to wear a face mask in college please contact us on office@blessededward.co.uk so that we can discuss this with you and make reasonable adjustments where necessary to ensure that staff and students are protected.

Please ensure that from Monday 9th November your child brings a face covering to college each day and a zip lock type bag to store it in. Students will be given clear guidance on the correct way to wear face coverings and how to handle and store them. Students must also continue to bring their own personal hand sanitiser to college each day.

Students do not have to wear face coverings when socialising outside at break or lunchtime or when in classrooms. At the start of the college day students who walk to college do not have to wear face coverings until they begin to make their way to morning registration. At the end of the day students must wear their face coverings as they leave their last lesson until they are outside the college building. Students who travel on buses will continue to wear face coverings on their journey to and from the college.

We will emphasise to all students that face coverings are part of a package of measures which we apply in the college to reduce transmission of the coronavirus. The key ways in which we reduce transmission will continue to be;

- Symptomatic people not coming into college
- Hand sanitising frequently throughout the day
- Adults and students maintaining social distancing
- Minimising contact between different year groups
- Adequate ventilation in classrooms

Thank you in advance for your support and understanding of this important next step in our ongoing response to the current pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

8th November 2020

Dear Parent,

I am writing to let you know that we have a student in Year 11 who has tested positive for COVID-19. The student concerned was last in college on Tuesday 3rd November. I have been in contact with the Worcestershire Local Outbreak Response Team and based on their advice Year 11 students should not come into college on Monday 9th November and **must** stay at home. I am awaiting further guidance from Public Health and they will be in contact with me on Monday 9th November to assess whether we have a full or partial Year 11 bubble closure from Tuesday onwards. I will contact parents as soon as this decision has been made.

I fully appreciate and understand that receiving this information may be upsetting and frustrating especially as mock examinations were due to start tomorrow. Please be assured that whatever decision is made we will continue to support your child's learning and that mock examinations will be rearranged. Students will be able to access their work in the usual way via google classrooms and they should follow their normal timetable.

The college has already implemented its track and trace plan and been in contact with the parents of the confirmed case. At this point neither you or any siblings need to self-isolate unless you develop symptoms.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support and understanding and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

8th November 2020

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. 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

Further information

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

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

9th November 2020

Dear Parent,

I can confirm that all year 11 students will return to college on Tuesday 17th of November. All students will access their learning via google classrooms until they return. A new mock exam timetable will be issued soon along with details of how the exams will run. Our Year 11 students will fall into one of two categories until the 17th of November.

Category 1 - Students who have been identified as close contacts. These students must stay at home and self-isolate and continue with remote learning.

Category 2 - Students who have been identified as not being close contacts. These students will carry on with remote learning and do not need to self-isolate.

You will receive further information today as to which category your child

is in. Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

Headteacher

11th November 2020

Dear Parent

Please note that due to Year 11 mock exams being rescheduled the upcoming teacher training day has been moved to Friday 4th December. No students will be in college on this day.

Yours sincerely

Greg McClarey

Head Teacher

Home learning online provision for Year 11

Further to the letter about Year 11 having to isolate until 17th November, please be aware that all lessons activities are set via Google Classroom in line with your child's normal school timetable.

Teachers and Learning Support Mentors will be present in college, teaching and monitoring classwork for the full length of your child's timetables lesson. Student learning will take place remotely and follow a blended learning approach to education that combines online educational materials and opportunities for teacher-student interactions. All lesson activities will be uploaded and available in your child's subject Google Classroom. Registration will take

place each lesson. Lesson 1 will begin at 9.15. There will be form time on Mon 16th November at 9.00am.

Please check with your child that they can access the Google Classroom for all their subjects. If any student is struggling to access their Google account they can contact bpain@blessededward.co.uk for help, support and guidance.

Students will experience some live tuition and feedback in each subject through Google Classroom at least once in the week. When leading a live lesson, teachers will spend approximately 15 minutes teaching new or key information and setting tasks. The work set must be uploaded to Google Classroom by the end of the lesson. Teachers will not be delivering a live session for the whole hour, yet they will be present and available to communicate with the students during that time.

Teachers will upload any materials and presentations for the lessons beforehand in Google Classroom and ask students to have them open on their devices as they deliver the lesson.

Below is a list of the different types of teaching and learning activity included as part of the college's blended learning approach:

- Live teaching in Google Classroom
- Pre-recorded voice-over presentations and tasks
- Quizzes and recall exercises
- Comprehension activities
- Providing learning materials such as video and audio files and worksheets
- Revision activities
- Setting reading tasks

To support the effectiveness of the remote and blended learning approach, we ask that the students are contactable during the college day, although we accept they may not always be in front of a device the entire time. Students must attend all online lessons and engage in these lessons as they would if they were in school. They must aim to complete work to the deadline set by teachers, seek help if they need it, from teachers or Learning Support Mentors and alert teachers if they are not able to complete work.

If you have any questions or concerns about an aspect of the online provision, then please email me directly on the following address: stomas@blessededward.co.uk

Kind Regards

Mrs S Thomas
Deputy Headteacher

13th November 2020

FOR PARENTS OF CLOSE CONTACTS OF COVID-19 AT BLESSED EDWARD
OLDCORNE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Advice for Child to Self-Isolate for 14 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 college. All contacts of a confirmed case must follow the national guidance, stay at home and self-isolate. 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 has been in close contact with the affected individual. In line with national legislation, your child **must** now stay at home and self isolate until Monday 23rd November as required by the Public Health, England, The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Self-Isolation) (England) Regulations 2020.

We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in the community.

At the end of the 14 day period of self-isolation, if your child is well, then they can return to usual activities and college on Monday 23rd November. This 14-day period is calculated from when the student who subsequently tested positive was last present in the college.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 14-day self-isolation period.

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 .

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 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 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.

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

13th November 2020

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. 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. **In this instance only students identified as being close contacts have been told to self isolate from Monday 16th to Monday 23rd November. This self isolation period is determined by when the student concerned was last in the college. Students in Year 11 will still return as planned on Tuesday 17th November.**

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

13th November 2020

Dear Parent,

I am writing to let you know that we were informed this afternoon that a student in Year 8 has tested positive for COVID-19. The student concerned was last in college on Monday 9th November. I have been in contact with the Worcestershire Local Outbreak Response Team and based on their advice only Year 8 students who have been identified as close contacts have to self isolate. These students do not return to college until Monday 23rd November. The parents of these students have received a separate letter informing them that their child has been identified as a close contact. All other Year 8 students will be in college as normal.

I fully appreciate and understand that receiving this information may be upsetting and frustrating. Please be assured that we will continue to support your child's learning and if your child has been asked to self isolate they will be able to access their learning via Google Classrooms, Students should aim to complete the work set each day in line with their normal timetable. Please note that there will be no live sessions as teachers will be teaching the remaining Year 8 students in college. If you have any queries about accessing Google Classrooms please contact bpain@blessededward.co.uk

Thank you as always for your ongoing support and understanding and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

16th November 2020

Dear Parent,

I am writing to let you know that we were informed on 15th November that a student in Year 9 tested positive for COVID-19. The student concerned was last in college on Friday 13th November. I have been in contact with the Worcestershire Local Outbreak Response Team and based on their advice only a certain number of identified Year 9 students have to stay at home. These students do not return to college until Monday 30th November. The parents of these students have received a separate letter informing them of what steps they have to take.

All other Year 9 students will be in college as normal from Tuesday 17th November.

I fully appreciate and understand that receiving this information may be upsetting and frustrating. Please be assured that we will continue to support your child's learning and if your child has been asked to learn from home they will be able to access their learning via Google Classrooms. Students should aim to complete the work set each day in line with their normal timetable. If you have any queries about accessing Google Classrooms please contact bpain@blessededward.co.uk

Thank you as always for your ongoing support and understanding and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Greg McClarey

16th November 2020

Dear Parent,

I am writing to inform you that your child will need to stay at home and receive remote learning rather than attending school from Monday 16th November and will return to school on Monday 30th November.

As you were aware we were informed by Public Health England local health protection team that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the college. Your child has not had close contact with the confirmed case. They are however on the same side of the timetable and therefore have been in lessons, but not sat beside, the student who has subsequently tested positive

All students who have been identified as a close contact with the affected individual have been identified,

and written to advising that they **must** stay at home and self isolate until Monday 30th November, as required by the Public Health, England, The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Self-Isolation) (England) Regulations 2020.

As your child is not a close contact there is no need for them to self-isolate.

Students are advised to follow their normal timetable and access work via google

classrooms. **What to do if your child or anyone in your household develops**

symptoms of COVID-19

If you, your child or anyone in your household develops any symptoms of COVID-19 they should remain at home and self-isolate 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.

All other household members, even if well, must also 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 staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

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)

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.

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

16th November 2020

FOR PARENTS OF CLOSE CONTACTS OF COVID-19 AT BLESSED EDWARD
OLDCORNE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Advice for Child to Self-Isolate for 14 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 college. All contacts of a confirmed case must follow the national guidance, stay at home and self-isolate. 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 has been in close

contact with the affected individual. In line with national legislation, your child **must** now stay at home and self isolate until Monday 30th November as required by Public Health England, The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Self-Isolation England) Regulations 2020.

We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in the community.

At the end of the 14 day period of self-isolation, if your child is well, then they can return to usual activities and college on Monday 30th November. This 14-day period is calculated from when the student who subsequently tested positive was last present in the college.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 14-day self-isolation period.

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 .

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 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 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.

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

27th November 2020

Dear Parent,

We will be having a non-uniform day on Wednesday 2nd December to support the homeless in our Archdiocese. The Fr. Hudson's Society has launched a fundraising initiative to support this cause and have asked for schools to help.

As we prepare during the season of Advent to welcome Jesus into our hearts and homes at Christmas, we are more conscious than ever of those who have no home.

For the privilege of wearing non-school uniform we are asking students to donate a minimum of £1. I would ask that on the day students dress modestly and appropriately.

Yours sincerely,

Danny McCormack