

1. I have not received any information about Year 8 and/or Year 11 not being in school this week? Where can I find the letter?

You should have received a text from school on Friday afternoon telling you to check your email for a letter from Mr Larkin (there are three different letters: one for Year 11, one for Year 8 and one for Years 7, 9 and 10). Please make sure the school has up to date contact details for you.

2. Why was my child sent home early on Friday and not at the end of the school day?

The school was following Public Health England advice relating to responding to a positive COVID case. We are required to act immediately to reduce any further risk of transmission. This is the process the school will follow in any future cases. Parents will receive a text. Pupils, once they have been told, will be allowed to ring you from their mobile. The school will only release a pupil to go home early if we know they are going to get home safely.

3. Why has my child been sent home if they are not showing any symptoms?

It was a precautionary measure in line with Public Health England advice. The advice is that where there is a risk that a person has come into close contact with a person who has tested COVID positive then they should self-isolate for a period of 14 days from possible proximity to a positive case. Pupils in Year 8 and Year 11 have been asked to do this because through contact tracing we have been able to establish these are the year groups where this may have happened. It does not mean they have COVID – it is a precautionary step. The end of their self-isolation period is the end of Wednesday 21st October and pupils should be back in school on Thursday 22nd October. The school has had to act following Public Health guidance. Guidance on what is regarded as a direct or close proximity contact is appended.

4. My child is not in Year 11 or Year 8, should they be staying at home?

No. We have been advised it is only necessary for pupils Year 8 and Year 11 to stay at home. Contact tracing made it clear it does not affect pupils in Years 7, 9 and 10. However, if your child shows COVID-related symptoms they should not come to school and they and your whole household should immediately self-isolate. You need to book your child a test (phone 119). The whole household should isolate until the test outcome is known. If the test is negative and the child is well enough they should come back to school. The whole household can go back to normal business if the household is symptom free. If you have children, in other year groups as well as Year 11 and Year 8, they should attend school. Pupils should only stay off school if they or a household member develops symptoms and is waiting for a test outcome.

5. Is it safe to come to school?

Yes. We are doing all we can to ensure everyone - staff and pupils - is safe at school. The decision to send Year 8 and Year 11 home was not done lightly but it was a precautionary measure in line with Public Health England advice. We have very clear procedures in place. Pupils will remain in their year group bubbles throughout the day. They are required to wear a mask when they come into school and wear it at all times unless they are in a lesson or are eating. They wash their hands as they arrive in school and before they leave at the end of the day. They wipe down their desk and chair at the end of their lessons. They sanitise their hands at the start of each lesson. If they think they have symptoms they should report to the Pastoral Office. Staff will contact you if there is a need to collect your child from school.

6. Why have all year groups not been sent home and only Year 8 and Year 11?

The school received information on Friday of a positive case that impacted Year 8 and Year 11. Having taken advice from Public Health England on contact tracing of those that might be deemed direct or close proximity contacts (see appendix) it meant that we were required as a precautionary measure to send Year 8 and Year 11 home.

7. Can I send my Year 8 or Year 11 child into school as I cannot stay at home with them?

No, I'm afraid not. We recognise that this is disruptive for parents and are sorry for the inconvenience it may cause. We did not take the decision lightly but we followed Public Health England advice and guidance. There are some exceptions that we are asked to look at on a case by case basis. Parents in such cases will have been contacted directly by school.

8. When can my child come back to school?

Year 8 and Year 11 pupils are due back in school on Thursday 22nd October. This date has been established from the last direct or close proximity contact of the positive case that required us to send Year 8 and Year 11 home on Friday. Pupils in Years 7, 9 and 10 should be in school as normal.

9. How will work be set while they are not in school?

The letter sent home on Friday outlines how work will be set and monitored. All work will be set via SatchelOne (previously known as Show My Homework).

- *Log-on at the start of each school day and you will see the lessons set for each period in their normal timetable*
- *Use the 'Calendar' view and select today's date*
- *You will find six pink boxes labelled with the date, name of the subject and the period that pupils are expected to complete the work which matches their normal timetable*
- *The recorded video for the lesson can be accessed from here via a link and work will be attached for your child to complete and send back to the teacher*
- *Pupils should follow their normal school timetable and access the live Form Time at the normal time*

Where sharing of equipment at home with siblings is an issue aim to complete the work the day on the day it was set but we understand you might need to be flexible with timings.

10. Does my whole household need to self-isolate?

No, that is not necessary. Your child has not been sent home because they have symptoms or have COVID but your child does need to self-isolate. You only need to self-isolate if you or your child develops symptoms. Your whole household needs to self-isolate as soon as any symptoms are noticed. The person concerned needs to book a test by dialling 119. The household must self-isolate until the test outcome is known. If the test is negative the household can end its self-isolation. Pupils in Year 8 and Year 11 must stay off school and return on Thursday 22nd October.

11. What do I do if my child starts showing symptoms?

They need to get tested as soon as possible. Your household must immediately self-isolate as soon any symptoms are noticed. The person concerned needs to book a test by dialling 119. The household must self-isolate until the test outcome is known. If the test is negative the household can end its self-isolation. You must provide the school with evidence of the outcome of the test. If the test is positive, the person who tested positive must self-isolate for 10 days from when symptoms started (or 10 days from the test if

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they had no symptoms). You must provide the school with evidence of the outcome of the test. The rest of the household must isolate for 14 days.

12. My child is parented across two households. Are they allowed to visit both households?

If your child needs to self-isolate and you have formed an exclusive support bubble across the two households, then they can complete their isolation across two houses, but the support bubble must not be compromised. As for all people in self-isolation they must not meet with people outside their household(s) or exclusive support bubble.

13. We do not have access to the Internet to complete the lessons what should we do?

Contact the school so that we can support with this. It is best to speak to either the Form Tutor or Head of Year.

14. A member of my household is clinically vulnerable and they have been asked to shield (or have in the past). Is it safe for my child to come to school?

We understand these concerns. Advice relating to shielding relates to a specific individual who is clinically vulnerable. They must follow the advice of medical professionals. Government advice is that pupils should attend. Absence would not be authorised. It is important, as it is for everyone, to ensure mask wearing, washing hands regularly and observing social distancing guidance at all times. Washing uniform daily is also recommended.

APPENDIX: DIRECT AND CLOSE PROXIMITY CONTACTS:

We need to manage any situation where a pupil or member of staff displays COVID symptoms, and, the outcomes of testing - either positive or negative. We are guided by health professionals. There are two key principles we will follow in all situations:

- **We will always respect the privacy of any individual (we will not openly share information)**
- **We will do all we can to ensure the safety of our staff and pupils at all times.**

In responding to any confirmed cases, the guidance below is the Public Health England guidance we follow:

What is a contact? The main categories are:

- 1. Direct contact:** face to face contact with a confirmed case (index case) for any length of time within 1 metre, including:
 - Being coughed on
 - A face to face conversation
 - Unprotected physical contact (skin to skin)
 - Travel in a small vehicle with a confirmed case

This includes any exposure within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer.

- 2. Proximity contact:** extended close contact (between 1 and 2 metres) for more than 15 minutes with a confirmed case (index case).

An individual identified as a contact is required to self-isolate for 14 days from the last contact that they had with the index case. If they develop symptoms during this time they must arrange an urgent test for themselves.

Contact must have taken place during the 'infectious period' of the index case which is defined as 2 full days before the onset of symptoms (or the date of the test if no symptoms) until 10 days after symptoms started (or the date of the test if they do not have symptoms).