

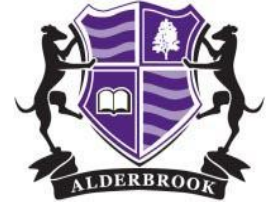
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18 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 11 and Year 8 to work from home on Monday 19 October 2020

I regret to inform you that we have been made aware of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases within our school community. A student in Year 11 has tested positive, and a student in Year 8 has tested positive by proxy (the rest of their family has tested positive and the student is still awaiting a test result). Neither student has been in school since Wednesday 14 October.

After consulting with Public Health this afternoon, **we have reached the difficult decision to ask all Year 11 and Year 8 students to isolate and work from home, tomorrow Monday 19 October, as a precaution.** We are very sorry to inform you of this at such short notice; this measure is being taken because we have not been able to accurately trace close contacts of these students today, as we need to work closely with teaching staff to do so. We will trace all close contacts to the two students tomorrow, therefore enabling the majority of students in Year 11 and Year 8 to return to school on Tuesday morning.

Tomorrow, we will contact separately anyone we know who has been in close contact with the Year 11 and 8 students. **If you are not contacted tomorrow, then your child can return to school on Tuesday morning and will have lessons as normal. If you have a child in Year 11 or 8, and also a child in another year group, all siblings in Years 7, 9, 10, 12 or 13, can come into school as normal on Monday.**

We will write to the parents and carers of Year 11 and 8 in the morning, and will aim to deliver the majority of lessons live tomorrow, as per student timetables, via Microsoft Teams.

I also want to inform you that we have been notified that a member of staff has tested positive for COVID-19. The member of staff has not been in school since Tuesday 13 October and received a positive test result today. The member of staff was originally asked to isolate as they were contacted by Track and Trace as a close contact to a confirmed case outside the school community. Following detailed discussion with the member of staff and the Health Protection Team, we are confident that social distancing was maintained between the staff member and all students, and therefore no students will be contacted to self-isolate due to this case.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

It is becoming clear that it is imperative that you respond swiftly if any household members present symptoms of COVID-19.

The common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature, and/or
- a new continuous cough
- loss of sense of taste or smell.

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/>.

If you, or anyone in your family, has these symptoms now or in the future, stay at home for at least **10 days** from the date of when the symptoms appear, even if you are mildly unwell. All other members of your household will need to self-isolate for 14 days. 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.

The latest advice is that siblings need to be kept at home with symptomatic individuals. This means that if you are keeping one child off school because of symptoms, you must also keep any other children away from school until the symptomatic child has received a negative test. This applies to siblings within the same school or those at different schools.

Precautions

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk to you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

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

Reminders

Your support with the following is essential:

- Wearing a face covering is mandatory for all children and adults in all internal communal areas apart from in classrooms. Please support us by reminding your child of this expectation.
- We are relying on parents/carers keeping children at home if they are displaying any symptoms at all. If students are tested, then it is important they do not come back into school unless they have received a negative test
- If any member of the community (staff or student) has tested positive, then that individual should not return to school until they have completed a ten day isolation period. After this period, they can return to school so long as they are not showing symptoms. There is no need for a further test to be taken (unless advised by a medical professional).
- To report student absence please telephone the main school number and follow the recorded instructions

Again, I want to thank you for your continued support at such an unprecedented time. We have not taken today's decision lightly. Keeping our children and families, staff and local community safe is our priority. We will continue to follow government guidance and that of Public Health England and ensure that you are informed at each step of the way.

We realise that you may have questions about this situation and would ask you in the first instance, to direct these to office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk Whilst we are unable to discuss any specific details with you we will of course try and respond to any general questions you may have promptly.

With best wishes



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher