



Monday 14th December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have been advised that there has been another confirmed case of COVID-19 within year 9. This is the second case in year 9 and fourth in school during the last week. We wish them and their family a speedy recovery.

Over the weekend, we initiated our response and the students that now need to self-isolate and families affected by this have been notified. The small number of children who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have received a letter informing them that their child must stay at home for 14 days.

All necessary measures and actions have taken place and following our investigation the correct families have been contacted. Unless you have been contacted by us your child should come into school as usual and you have no cause for concern.

We continue to liaise with the DFE and the Local Authority. The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

If your child is asked to isolate work will be available in Microsoft Teams and they will be contacted by Mrs Hopps our Teams Coordinator. Children isolating will receive an X code which does not count on their attendance record. However as homework and resources are uploaded onto Microsoft Teams I encourage you to ensure your child is able to use Microsoft Teams from home.

I am very conscious of the fast approaching Christmas break and the chance that brings for families to come together. As I explained in my letter to reduce the chances of students being asked to self-isolate over Christmas, the last week of term will look and feel different from normal.

- From Monday to Wednesday students will attend their normal lessons
- On Monday and Tuesday Christmas lunch will be available from the canteen
- On Wednesday we will have our Advent services
- From Thursday students will be based solely in forms, thus reducing contact with each other and staff. They will work on year-appropriate curriculum content, and have separate break and lunchtimes to further reduce the number of students that they will come into contact with.
- From Thursday sixth form students will be working independently from home





Longton Hall Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 2NJ
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Headteacher: Mr M Rayner BA(Hons) NPQH

On the last day of term school will finish at 12.55pm for year 7, year 8 & 9 students which finish at 1:00pm, and year 10 and 11 students will finish at 1:05pm.

Unfortunately we would encourage students not to bring the normal array of food, gifts and cards into school as the sharing of such items would increase the risk of spreading infection.

Over Christmas, if your child tests positive, you must contact school by sending an email to office@stmca.org.uk, to notify the school. We will track and trace close contacts and, if appropriate, contact families so these students isolate over the Christmas holidays.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and 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. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

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

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 or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

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 you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

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

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





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

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

Further Information

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

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely

Mr M Rayner
Headteacher

