

20th October 2020

Advice to All Parents – Three Positive Cases

Dear Parents,

As you now know, we have been advised that there have been three new confirmed cases of Covid-19 within the school: two in Year 11 which are linked and one in Year 9.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England.

78 students in Year 9 and 100 students in Year 11 have been identified as having been in close contact with the affected students. As you are aware, Year 9 and Year 11 are taught in sets and option groups. Students have been identified based on seating plans, following the Government's definition of close contact, which can be found on our website, and through an internal track and trace process completed by each of the affected student with one of the Deputy Headteachers.

Those children in Year 9 and Year 11 who have not been affected will be returning to school tomorrow.

I know that your child may be anxious about this situation but I can assure you that we have undertaken all the necessary steps including deep cleaning and we have been advised that there is no reason for us to isolate the year group bubbles or to close the school. Your child does not need to isolate if they have been in close contact with one of the students who has been advised to self-isolate. Only those students who have been identified as having close contact with the affected students have been directed to self-isolate.

Those students who have been in direct close contact with the confirmed case will have received an individual letter and will be staying at home for 14 days to self-isolate.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well and if you have not received a letter stating that they are a close contact of one of the affected students.



01438 726999

admin@marriotts.herts.sch.uk

www.marriotts.herts.sch.uk

Marriotts School | Brittain Way | Stevenage | Herts | SG2 8UT



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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 14 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 14-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 14 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)

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

Headteacher: **Ms Bethany Honor** MA (Cantab), NPQH

- 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/>

If you have any queries regarding this letter, please contact the Headteacher b.honor@marriotts.herts.sch.uk and copy in her PA i.pisano@marriotts.herts.sch.uk

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Ms B Honor,
Headteacher



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