

# HOLBROOK ACADEMY



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Dear Parents / Carers

It has been great to welcome students back into the Academy after the half term break.

The importance of education and the structure of school for young people has been widely recognised and we continue to implement our risk assessment to keep students and staff safe. We have reminded students of the things they need to do and welcome your support with this. Please remind students of the need to wear their face coverings on buses and also in corridors during lesson changeovers. Safe handling of face coverings is important and we have established opportunities in the school day for the safe putting on and removal of face coverings when students can sanitize their hands. Please continue to provide sealed bags for the safe storage of reusable masks for students during the day. In school, we continue to practice good hand and respiratory hygiene and remind students of the importance of this. Students remain in their 'bubbles' with classrooms organised for safety - students facing forwards, sitting side by side and classrooms are well ventilated but take into account the change of weather.

Further to the Prime Minister's announcement of a second lockdown, we await further updates from the Department for Education on any additional measures that schools will put in place. We are pleased that schools will remain open and will keep you informed of any other changes ahead of Thursday. In case of any localised lockdown, we have strong contingency plans for learning.

Although we are not in the same position as areas in other parts of the country, we must continue to work collectively to ensure we effectively manage any cases.

Since I last communicated with you, we have been made aware of a single confirmed Covid-19 case of a student in the lower school. We have spoken to the Department for Education who has confirmed that, as the student has not been in school during the time that Covid-19 was transmissible and remains off self-isolating, there is no action to take. We have still decided to share this with you in our continued culture of open communication.

We are confident of the plans in place for suspected and confirmed cases and kindly remind you of the following:-

The symptoms of COVID-19 in adults and children are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough (this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours).
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Anyone with these symptoms should firstly **self-isolate and get tested**, requesting a test via the [online portal](#) or via 119 if they do not have internet access.



The best advice for accessing testing is to use the [online portal](#), and if at first unsuccessful keep checking each hour as more testing slots will become available during the day.

Please be aware that only individuals with these symptoms are eligible for testing.

If children are experiencing common cold symptoms (such as a runny or blocked nose, and/or a sore throat), and **DO NOT** have any of the above COVID-19 symptoms **plus do not** fall into either of the following categories:

- a household member has COVID-19 symptoms or has had a positive test result in the last 14 days
- the child has been identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case through NHS Test and Trace or local contact tracing efforts

They **may continue to attend school** providing they are feeling well enough to do so.

For more information on COVID-19 symptoms and arranging testing for children, please see the following link - [Coronavirus in children](#)

***What if a child or member of staff is unwell at school?***

Anybody displaying symptoms of Covid-19 during the school day will be sent home. Whilst awaiting collection, students will be moved to a separate room where they will remain until collection. They will have access to a separate bathroom.

***What if somebody in the school community tests positive? Will the school have to close?***

If your child or someone in the household tests positive to Covid-19, you **must** inform us and you must NOT send your child to school.

If we have 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) among students or staff within 14 days, or we see an increase in student or staff absence rates due to suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), we will contact our local health protection team. This team will advise if additional action is required, though the closure of the whole school will generally not be necessary.

The Local Authority and Public Health England has set out clear guidance for schools to take if there is a case in school.

If you have any specific concerns or queries, please contact us using the [covid.info@holbrookacademy.org](mailto:covid.info@holbrookacademy.org) email.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Maltby