



23rd June 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to inform you we were notified that there have been seven confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school community since Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 - our first ones since March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The positive cases have been discussed with the Local Authority, our Trust members and Public Health England and it is recognised that, of these seven confirmed cases, four Year 8 (Y8) cases are linked but appropriate action has taken place. We have sent three tutor/teaching groups home to self-isolate over the last two days in accordance with guidance. The Y7 case, Y9 case and the member of staff who tested positive are separate, and not related. We shall continue to work tirelessly with our community to establish if further links are evident and we appreciate the consistent support and well wishes from many individuals. High lines of communication are key, so we thank you for this.

I apologise for this lengthy letter, but I do wish to maintain a clear line of communication with you so that as parents, and important people in our community, have clear facts. It is important that we share a sense of truth, integrity, and honesty. Previous advice was that tutor/learning/friendship groups should go into isolation, and we have followed this guidance, alongside our robust risk assessments. We are aware that, in some local schools, whole year groups have gone into isolation – and we are certain that they are following advice given based on their particular circumstances, but for Tudor Grange Academy, Kingshurst, our current advice remains the same - that it is only close contacts who are asked to isolate.

We have been reassured that the risk of infection within the wider school community from these cases are minimal and that all appropriate action has been taken. However, we are in a state of heightened awareness, and I urge all the community to wear masks when social distancing cannot be guaranteed and wash hands regularly. We shall be asking students to return to mask wearing in the classrooms and corridors, but this will be in a way of encouragement, and we are not policing this request. The hand sanitisers are all fully stocked and appear in all corridors and main access points. **Therefore, the school will remain open as usual for all pupils and staff who have not received a phone call, letter or text informing them that they need to self-isolate.**

This does provide a useful reminder of how important it is that the measures we have in school to help prevent the spread of infection are followed and how vital it is to respond swiftly if any household members present with symptoms of COVID-19. We will be reminding all students and staff of these points on an ongoing basis.

It is important that you read the following information which has been provided by Public Health England. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

If your child is well now, they do not need any specific treatment. However, you should be vigilant for any symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

The common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

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

If you, or anyone in your family, have these symptoms now, or in the future, stay at home and contact NHS 111 for advice. Testing for people with symptoms is available and more information can be found [here](#).

### **Precautions**

There are things you can do to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- when you leave your home, always wash your hands when you return
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- 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
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- wear a mask when social distancing cannot be guaranteed

More information on COVID-19 is available on these websites from the [NHS](#) and the [Government](#).

Keeping our children and families, staff and local community safe is our priority. It is vital that we follow government guidance and the advice from the local Public Health England Health Protection Team. We realise that you may have questions about the situation: if this is the case please email [office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk)

Please note that we will not be able to discuss any details relating to the individual case but will do our best to answer any general questions that you may have as promptly as we can. Thank you for your support in helping to keep everyone at our school safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Turner

Executive Principal



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**Kingshurst**

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