



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

“Develop all learners to achieve their full potential”
“Create a culture of aspiration”

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



16 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been informed of a number of positive COVID-19 cases over the past few days and as always I wanted to be transparent in my communication to you. All of the cases are independent of one another and have been dealt with in meticulous detail. Throughout this pandemic we have communicated with you frequently and in a timely manner and I wanted to send one piece of communication which ensures everyone is well informed.

Confirmed student cases

A student in Year 9 has tested positive and has not attended school since Tuesday 10 November 2020. The student started to show symptoms on Wednesday 11 November and was tested on Thursday 12 November. After consultation with Public Health England we have been advised that anyone who was in “close contact” with the student up to 48hrs prior to the student showing symptoms will need to self-isolate for 14 days from that point (10 November) and thus will be able to return to school on Wednesday 25 November.

A student in Year 13 has tested positive and has not attended school since Wednesday 11 November 2020. The student was asymptomatic and was tested on Thursday 12 November. After consultation with Public Health England we have been advised that anyone who was in “close contact” with the student up to 48hrs prior to the student last being in school will need to self-isolate for 14 days from that point (Wednesday 11 November) and thus will be able to return to school on Thursday 26 November.

A student in Year 8 has tested positive. The student was last in school on Friday 13 November and began to feel unwell on Friday evening. The student was tested on Saturday 14 November. After consultation with Public Health England we have been advised that anyone who was in “close contact” with the student up to 48hrs prior to the student last being in school will need to self-isolate for 14 days from that point (Friday 13 November) and thus will be able to return to school on Monday 30 November.

As always our thoughts are with the students and their family as we wish them a speedy recovery. We have contacted all close contacts separately and, as a precaution, we have also asked any siblings of close contacts to remain at home for the same time frame. As always, we pride ourselves on our blended learning provision and I have every confidence that the remote learning being accessed by students isolating will not disadvantage them in any way.

Confirmed staff cases

We have had three members of support staff test positive for Covid 19 over the weekend. After detailed conversations with all of these members of staff, no students will have been in close contact with them and therefore there is no requirement for any students to self-isolate as a result of these positive tests.

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We have also had a member of teaching staff test positive over the weekend and the member of staff in question was in school on Friday. As with all teaching staff, lessons are taught from the front of the classroom and there is always a safe 2m distance between the member of staff and any students. As such, there is no requirement for any students to self-isolate as a result of this positive test.

With the rise in cases and notifications from test and trace, the strain on resources to operate 'as normal' is becoming increasingly tight. I hope you can appreciate that we are doing all that we possibly can to support the government in keeping schools open safely and are doing everything in our power to avoid having to send whole year groups home. We have very robust systems and structures at school and we are as confident as we can be that the levels of hygiene and safety procedures are as effective as possible.

Myself and other leaders in the school have worked non-stop over the weekend to trace contacts and to minimise the disruption to learning to as few people as possible. As always, we do not make any decisions lightly or without full consultation with the relevant authorities and we wholeheartedly appreciate your support in the decisions we have made.

If you have any specific concerns around your child, please contact their Achievement Leader or Assistant Achievement Leader.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Huntington', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr S Huntington
Executive Principal