



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



19 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been informed of another two positive COVID-19 cases and, as always, I wanted to be transparent in my communication to you all. Both cases are independent of one another and have been dealt with in meticulous detail and in an extremely swift manner.

A student in Year 11 has tested positive and has not attended school since Thursday 12 November 2020. The student started to show symptoms on Saturday 14 November and was tested over the weekend. 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 (12 November) and thus would be able to return to school on Friday 27 November.

A student in Year 12 has tested positive and has not attended school since Wednesday 11 November 2020. The student started to show symptoms on Friday 13 November and was tested on Tuesday 17 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 (11 November) and thus would be able to return to school on Thursday 26 November.

As always our thoughts are with the students and their family and 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.

We have been in contact with PHE this morning and discussed at length the recent rise in cases. To give everyone a perspective, as of today we have 12 students positive with COVID-19, a further 10 students awaiting test results and over 16% of our student population currently isolating due to being close contacts. Our COVID-19 safety measures and our comprehensive track and trace system were both praised for their robustness and in PHE’s opinion, our methods for handling the current pandemic are exemplary.

PHE were very complimentary of the work we are doing to support the government in keeping schools open safely and to avoid having to send whole year groups home.

They have asked us to remind parents and carers of some key messages which we agree are absolutely crucial if we as a community are going to come through this pandemic as safely and quickly as possible:

1. If a household member is awaiting the results of a test, then the entire household should isolate until that result is returned. If the result is negative, then members of the household can return to ‘normal routines’.
2. We are in a national lockdown and students should not be mixing inside or outside of households. Locally there have been too many incidents of young people in particular flaunting the rules. As parents and carers you are ultimately responsible for your children and I ask you to remind them that they should not be leaving home other than to attend school or to exercise. If they are meeting 1 friend outdoors then they must maintain social distancing.

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I would like to finish by publicly recognising all of the staff at the academy. Whilst we have had 5 positive cases of COVID-19 amongst the staff (1 teacher and 4 members of support staff), the attendance, resilience, professionalism and commitment to serving the children and our community continues to be outstanding. They really are 'putting a shift' in on a daily basis and I applaud all of you who have thanked them yourselves both personally, or on social media.

Whilst I cannot promise what the next four weeks will look like, I can assure you we will continue to do everything we possibly can to maintain our current standards and provision.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Huntington', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Huntington
Executive Principal