



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



30 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Over the weekend we have been informed of some further positive COVID-19 cases and, as always, I wanted to be transparent in my communication to you all. All of the cases are independent of one another and have been dealt with in meticulous detail and in an extremely swift manner.

Two students in Year 9 have tested positive. The first student was last in school on Tuesday 24 November 2020. The student started to show symptoms on Tuesday evening and the positive result was returned on Friday evening. 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 (24 November) and thus would be able to return to school on Wednesday 9 December.

The second student in Year 9 who has tested positive over the weekend started with symptoms on Sunday. As he had not attended school on Friday 27 November 2020, the tracing of close contacts within the school environment was not required. However, two close contacts were traced from outside of school. These students will need to isolate and will be available to return for the final week on Monday 14 December.

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.

On a positive note, today we welcomed three staff back into school following positive tests a fortnight ago. That means that I am pleased to report that we currently have a full cohort of teaching staff fit for work. This is another outstanding testament to the commitment and resilience of our staff body.

Student attendance is also returning to a positive level. Today we had 96 students return and, with another 45 students anticipated to return tomorrow, that should see attendance rise back up beyond 85%. This is brilliant news and suggests that as a school we may have witnessed and overcome our own ‘peak’. I once again thank the entire school community for all of the support so far and urge that we continue to work together in order to ensure the progress we have seen isn’t compromised.

As of Wednesday 2 December we move into national tiered restrictions and, as we know, Amber Valley has been placed into Tier 3. It is imperative that students and families continue to follow the guidelines, notably not mixing indoors away from the school environment or gathering in groups of more than 6 outdoors. For further information on the ‘very high’ tier restrictions, please see below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know#very-high-alert>

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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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr S Huntington
Executive Principal