

18<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
12:00

Dear Families,

**Re: Further information following positive COVID-19 case notification on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

Thank you very much for your understanding and swift action on Friday following the notification of the positive COVID-19 case of a student at Burton Borough School. I know that for those of you who have children who were asked to self-isolate would have had to leave work or drop plans to come and pick them up, particularly if they were not able to go on the school bus or public bus, resulting in some disruption to your day. I really appreciate how supportive the families I have spoken to have been and your understanding of why decisions and actions needed to be carried out quickly.

I spoke to a family member of the student who has been tested positive and I am pleased to say that the family member and the student only had mild symptoms and are recovering well. I have passed on good wishes from all our community and wished them a speedy recovery.

**Further information on Friday's case**

All students who are required to self-isolate were spoken to on Friday afternoon so that they know who they are and the reasons they need to do so. This includes **all students in Year 9 y-half, plus 14 additional students** who may have been in close contact with the student who has been tested positive. These students include some in Year 9 x-half and in other year groups. The 14 students who also need to isolate were sent an additional email letter from me on Friday so that families are aware. To reiterate, **the day that you must isolate to is the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

The decision on which students and staff needed to self-isolate was made following **detailed advice and guidance from the Health Protection Hub**. Following my discussion with them on the COVID procedures we have at Burton Borough School, it was advised that those who share a class with the student (including staff) were the only people who would need to self-isolate unless they may have been in close contact in other areas of the school.

We spoke to the student and staff members who teach the student (including support staff who would have possibly been in contact) and identified people who fit this category. This has meant that **Year 9 x-half for example, can still attend school (except those identified as possibly having close contact who have been told to self-isolate)** as the risk and likelihood that they would have been in close contact and contracted the virus is negligible.

I understand that having a positive case can be unsettling for families, but I would like to reassure you that we have followed the guidance of the health professionals and acted upon the advice they have given us.

Please also ensure that any information you receive about what is going on in school is taken directly from school. We will endeavour to send email communication out as quickly as possible, but it may sometimes take the system a little period of time to send the email out to



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nearly 1200 families. Any letters with vital information such as the one we sent on Friday will also be uploaded onto our Twitter and Instagram social media sites (@BurtonBorough) and website. Please check these platforms as your first point of call.

We will continue to monitor the situation moving forward and work closely with the Health Protection Hub.

### **Teaching and Learning during periods of self-isolation (both staff and students)**

**All teaching for students who are self-isolating will be on Teams.** Students should know their passwords to log onto Teams as they will have been using these continually in their IT lessons in preparation for a scenario such as this.

If your child does not remember their login details however, please contact the school via this email address:

**[main.bbs@taw.org.uk](mailto:main.bbs@taw.org.uk)**

For some lessons, assignments will be uploaded for students to work through and where appropriate, the teacher will be available to deliver the lesson live, either through the video, audio or chat function where appropriate. This will be dependent on the subject.

**For students who are isolating but their peers/classes are still at school**, it may take the teacher a little while to set up Teams as they will need to settle the physical class they have in front of them and take the register first. Thank you for your patience in advance.

**All teachers who are now self-isolating will continue to teach on Teams** so that their classes will continue to have specialist teaching. However, if a member of staff falls ill during the period of self-isolation, usual absence procedures will apply, and students will have another member of staff to cover them.

**We would be grateful if your child could download Teams on their mobile phone if they have not done so already** just in case there are any technical issues in school. We hope that this will be unlikely, but with heavier usage not just at our school but in other schools too, this is a precaution to further ensure disruption to learning is minimized.

As this is the first time we will be using blended learning fully for such a large group of students and with staff self-isolating as well, there may be some hiccups along the way. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can and will continue to do everything we can to minimise disruption.

As ever, thank you for your support and understanding during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,



Krissi Carter  
Principal



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