

Dear Parent/Carer

Students and staff have adapted very well to the routines within school and we are settling into a new 'normal'. There have been a few developments this week and rather than send you daily messages I thought that it would be better to have them in one place.

### **Covid-19 in Sleaford**

There have been rumours swirling around this week about Covid-19 and the Sleaford schools, as well as more widely. We know that there are confirmed cases in the town of Sleaford, as there are in other towns, and that there are confirmed cases in schools in different towns in the county. I would like to reassure parents that currently **there are no confirmed cases in any of the Sleaford schools**, and should there be any at Carre's you will be informed. Given this I thought it would be worthwhile giving you some clarity with regard to the procedures we expect people to follow at the school. Please be assured that our measures are under constant review and if you have any feedback for us, then please let us hear it as we are in a new situation and do not have all of the answers.

### **Who needs to isolate?**

If any student or member of staff displays any of the following symptoms, they need to remain at home and arrange to have a Covid-19 test:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

At this point, everyone else in the household will also need to isolate until the result of the test is known.

In addition, if a household family member displays any of the above symptoms, a student or member of staff should also begin to self-isolate.

### **Negative Test Result**

1. The student or member of staff with the symptoms should return to school once they are better.
2. Everyone else in the household and support bubble should resume normal activities straight away.

### **Positive Test Result**

1. If a student or member of staff tests positive, they should remain at home for the next **10** days. Everyone else in the household should isolate for **14** days from the start of the first person displaying symptoms and be tested.
2. The school must be notified of the positive test result and we, as a school, will then contact Public Health England for further advice on the next steps.

I would ask that parents do not ask our administrative team for medical advice. Please follow the guidance available, and if you are unsure, please contact 111 or a medical professional.

A further quick reference guide for parents is also attached.

## Remote Learning

Should a student be absent from school due to a Covid-related illness, the following will apply:

1. Parent notifies the school office that the student is self-isolating.
  - You do not have to contact the school in the 14 day period during which the student is self-isolating.
  - If your child is displaying symptoms they must be tested and inform the school of the outcome at the earliest opportunity.
  - If they are negative they should return to school but if it is a member of their household or 'support bubble' with the symptoms they must self-isolate for 14 days or until the test of the family member comes back negative in which case they return to school asap.
2. The school office will notify all the teachers by 12 o'clock the names of the students who are self-isolating.
3. Teachers will provide work to the student's school email address or through Microsoft Teams by 6pm each day.

This means that the student will, effectively, work a day behind his/her peers.

Please have a look at the latest guidance with regard to self-isolation.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>

Should a whole class or year group be self-isolating, which would happen on the advice of Public Health England, students will be expected to follow their normal timetable with teachers delivering lessons via Microsoft Teams.

## The Rule of 6

The government has announced their 'rule of 6' with regard to the number of people who can mix. In schools it is different as the year groups are considered as 'bubbles'; the same is not true of the Sixth Form, where the whole of the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form is its own bubble. During the school students remain within these bubbles in different zones around the school. Whilst our students are very good at adhering to the measures within the school environment, we have had some reports of students not being mindful of the social distancing and bubbles outside of the school. Once away from the school it is **the student's responsibility** to self-regulate and remember that they should not be in a group of more than six. This pertains to the shops, as well as their movement around town, particularly where there are narrow pavements, with the only exception being at the bus stop, where they are told to remain within their year group bubble. Could I respectfully request that you have this conversation with your son/daughter and that they are mindful of the sensibilities of other people in town.

Tesco has also asked us to remind students that they should only enter the store if they are intending to make purchases. Similarly, they have politely requested that students do not congregate in the car park area either before or after school.

## Residential Trips and Visits

Regrettably, following government guidance, the Robert Carre Trust has made the decision to cancel all planned overseas residential trips for this academic year. Those who were due to go on these trips will be contacted individually and we are working with our insurance company to recover monies paid to this point. The only residential trips that can take place are Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, but we shall be running domestic curriculum trips during the course of the year.

## **School Transport**

Lincolnshire County Council has asked all schools to remind their students that face coverings are compulsory on all public and school transport and to reinforce this message with your son/daughter.

*We have been advised by transport operators that many pupils are removing face coverings upon, or not long after, boarding school transport. This is despite having them in place prior to boarding when queuing on the school grounds.*

*It is essential that pupils follow the recommendation to wear a face covering, wherever they are able to do so, for the duration of their trip on school transport vehicles. Our colleagues in Public Health have indicated that wearing a face covering, along with other preventative measures in place, will noticeably reduce a pupil's need to self-isolate if they are travelling on a school transport vehicle where a peer subsequently tests positive for Covid-19.*

*We ask for your support in reinforcing this message with all pupils, and their parents, travelling on school transport as we feel it is in everyone's interest- not least in helping us all keep as many children as possible in school at this time.*

## **School Events**

There are a number of events planned this year for parents and students which would require attendance in the school. With the current situation as it is, and to mitigate risk, we are looking at different ways to do these which do not involve large groups on the school site. This includes Information Evenings, Open Evenings and Parents' Evenings, all of which would require lots of people on site. The Information Evenings this half term will not be taking place, but the respective Heads of Year will be writing to their year group parents and will make use of the website to post information and presentations.

## **Year 7 Information Evening**

Further to the above, the Year 7 Information Evening scheduled for Wednesday 23 September will not take place. Instead, a presentation of the key information will be shared on the school website on or before this date. After viewing the presentation, parents can contact the appropriate member of staff if there are any queries. The Year 7 settling-in meetings scheduled for October are currently under review and if there is a change to arrangements this will be communicated in good time.

## **The Chill**

There are still ongoing issues with the tills in the Chill, for which we apologise. This seems to be affecting Year 7 students mostly, with the money that parents are putting onto their accounts via ParentPay not showing on the tills (Vericool). Our IT department is in daily contact with Vericool and we hope the problem will be resolved shortly.

### **Contact Details**

Please ensure that you remember to inform the school office of any changes in contact details, particularly if you have moved house or have changed your mobile number. This information is vital for us to effectively communicate with you, particularly in an emergency. Thank you.

**N M Law**  
Headteacher