

9th December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have been advised by Public Health England today that there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the academy. **This has unfortunately affected students in Years 7, 8, 10 and 11.**

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England to take swift and appropriate actions. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

As you are aware, each year group is in their own 'bubble' and zone at JQA and students are kept separate and do not mix with students outside of their year group on site. We have extensive safety measures in place, including checking students' temperatures on the gates, regular handwashing opportunities, students wearing face coverings in communal spaces and also well-ventilated classrooms with all students facing forwards and in strict seating plans. **Our academy is as safe as it can be for our students and staff.**

The small number of children who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus yesterday evening, received a letter informing them that their child must stay at home for 14 days.

The school remains open for all children and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

All families should ensure they adhere to the guidance regarding the [local restrictions in place in Tier 3](#). **You must:**

- **NOT meet with another person socially or undertake any activities with another person. However, you can exercise or meet in a public, outdoors space with people you live with.**
- **Minimise time spent outside your home. When around other people, stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household - meaning the people you live with - or your support bubble. Where this is not possible, stay 1 metre apart with extra precautions (e.g. wearing a face covering).**
- **NOT meet socially indoors with family or friends unless they are part of your household.**

[These measures will be underpinned by law. Police and other authorities will have powers to give fines and break up gatherings.](#)

You can help to protect your friends and family by downloading the [NHS COVID-19 App](#) to keep updated on the latest guidance from Thursday 5 November

You should talk to your child about the 'hands, face, space' approach and ensure they understand their responsibility to wear a face covering in corridors and staircases, wash hands regularly and do everything possible to maintain a safe distance at social times. This is important to keep themselves, your family and others safe.

You should ensure your child arrives at the academy every day with a face covering. We thank you for your support with this.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. You should communicate with the academy via Ms Z Sparg, Attendance Manager, by calling 0121 729 7220 extension 1411 or emailing zsparg@jewelleryquarter.academy

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

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

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely



Mr G. Williams
Headteacher