



9th December 2020

Government Advice: School Closures on 17th of December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

The Department for Education have recognised the challenges schools have faced and the additional work caused by the role they have played in contact tracing. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our families for their support and the part they have played in keeping us informed to ensure that we are able to follow the track and trace guidelines so effectively. This to date, has contributed massively to the national effort to limit the spread of the virus.

Yesterday, it was announced that Public Health England have agreed a 6-day window after the final day of teaching in which schools are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced. Beyond 6 days after the final day of teaching, school and further education staff are not asked to play a role in any contact tracing.

In light of the above arrangements, the Government have issued advice that where possible, all face-to-face teaching for this term is to end on Thursday 17th of December. Therefore, the Trust Board have decided to follow this advice and **close our school buildings on Thursday the 17th of December and hold a remote learning day for all children on Friday 18th of December.**

Important Information Below:

- Where a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>
- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where a schools last teaching day is on Thursday 17 December, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Wednesday 23 December.

- Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

In the coming days, your individual schools will communicate with you the details of who you can get in touch with for contact tracing after the 17th of December, and also with information on the remote learning arrangements for your child(ren).

We appreciate the short notice of this announcement and apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you and your family.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and we wish all of our families a very safe and enjoyable Christmas break.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Brocklehurst – Chair of Trustees



Amarjit Cheema OBE – Chief Executive Officer