

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Today we were informed that over the half term holiday a Year 10 pupil tested positive for COVID-19. The student is well and should make a full recovery. They pupil is self-isolating for 10 days as per the national guidance. There is no risk to your son/daughter or staff at St George Catholic College.

**The school remains open and your child should continue to attend.**

We have worked closely with the Department of Education hotline to risk assess the case and to decide what actions are needed; and then separately with Public Health England regionally for a second opinion on the process we have followed and the decisions that we made. Both organizations were clear that no action is required as the student developed symptoms on 28<sup>th</sup> October and therefore was not in contact with anyone other than his immediate household during the infectious period.

I feel we should be transparent about it as we have throughout this process. We wish to reassure you that we are acting fully on all the advice we have received and that no further action is required.

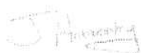
We are very proud of the work we have done to make our school as secure as it can be, to the maturity shown by our students and the high standards and consistency maintained by our staff. We will continue to look after our family and make sure that we balance our overriding priority of keeping everyone safe alongside ensuring our students have a full and balanced education.

If you or your child have any concerns, please remember that:

- we have taken advice from the experts and actioned it all;
- both Public Health England and Department of Education state there is no need for any pupils or staff to self-isolate;
- Public Health England and Department of Education are happy with our systems. They are robust and ensure students can receive a full education safely. We have embedded well-established start and end routines to all lessons, kept the year group bubbles separate, incorporated staggered start and finish times, different break and lunchtimes and intensive cleaning systems throughout the day.

It is because of the above that we are able to continue safely and therefore it is very important we attend school. Please see attached guidance from Public Health England for families so that it is available to you should you need it.

Yours sincerely



James Habberley  
Headteacher



[www.stgcc.co.uk](http://www.stgcc.co.uk)

Headteacher, Mr J Habberley: BA (Hons), MSc, NPQH  
Executive Headteacher, Miss LM Bourne: BEd (Hons), MEd, NPQH

## **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.

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/>