



EEM Sept2020/jf

Dear Parents / Carers

**Re: Positive COVID-19 Cases**

I would like to inform you that several members of our academy community have tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19). Unfortunately, this includes Mrs Jones, Vice Principal of Teaching & Learning. As a result, myself and Mrs Haggart, Vice Principal of Raising Achievement are required to self-isolate. I would like to reassure you that I am leading the academy remotely and that this is also the case with both of our Vice Principals. All of us are being supported onsite by our fantastic and experienced Senior Leadership Team. The academy remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well.

The small number of individuals who have been in direct and prolonged contact with the confirmed cases have been informed and will be isolating for 10 days. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. We of course, wish those affected a speedy recovery.

I can also confirm that we are closely monitoring the situation and working directly with Public Health England. Public Health England has escalated the situation to the Incident Management Team (IMT). The IMT ensure a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the spread of the virus and circumstances surrounding the incident. The IMT will also instruct the implementation of additional control measures required to minimise the spread of infection and mitigate the wider consequences of the incident. We will, of course, continue to keep you updated regarding any changes to our safety measures.

Please find attached some advice and guidance on what do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 and minimising the risk. Further information is also available via the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>. Information is also available via our academy website under the COVID-19 tab.

We understand that you may have questions about the situation; if this is the case, please email [info@thelinkacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@thelinkacademy.org.uk). We will not be able to discuss any personal details relating to individual cases however, we will endeavour to answer any general queries that you may have.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding at this time.

Yours faithfully

Emma Edwards-Morgan  
Principal



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## What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to the academy and should self-isolate for at least **10 days** from the day after their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms should seek a test 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 **10 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 **10-day** period starts from the day after 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 only. 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 **10 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 or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

### How to minimise 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 as outlined below:

- 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



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Principal: Emma Edwards-Morgan



Regular testing of people without symptoms is important and as a household of a secondary-aged learner, you have access to regular rapid lateral flow testing (please see [here](#) for further information).

You can access a twice-weekly test as follows:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a [local test site](#) (you may need to book an appointment)
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site ([find nearest home test kit collection point](#))
- by ordering a home test kit [online](#).

Please email [info@thelinkacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@thelinkacademy.org.uk) or visit the academy website for any further information related to the above.



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