

Dear Parent/Carer,



Last Thursday students from across year groups took part in a socially distanced workshop with an artist from the Survival Techniques street art project (www.survivaltechniques.co.uk). This workshop reflected ongoing efforts to maintain our broad curriculum and generated some inspiring artwork that we have found certainly helpful at this challenging time. We hope this will lead to the creation of a mural in school – watch this space!

The remainder of the letter gives an update on recent COVID-19 cases in school, a reminder on household-isolation guidelines and further detail on Microsoft Teams day. The headlines are below but please do read the detail that follows.

- ➤ The past week has seen two confirmed COVID-19 cases within the school community. They are not connected to other cases in school. 38 students and six members of staff have been advised to self-isolate.
- ➢ If anyone in your household is displaying any COVID-19 symptoms (a persistent cough, a high temperature or a change in taste or smell) the whole household must isolate for fourteen days or until a negative test result is received.





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Students will be working from home on Tuesday 1st December. Supervised study areas will be available in school if necessary – please fill in this form before Wednesday 25th November if you need your child to access this provision:

Form to request a supervised study space on Microsoft Teams Day

You must ensure your child can access Microsoft Teams this week. Videos available via the following link demonstrate how to log in, navigate the site and hand work in.

Home Learning How To Guides - YouTube

COVID-19 confirmed case update

We have had two COVID-19 cases in the past seven days. The first involved a member of staff who tested positive last week but had not been in school during the contagious phase of the illness, meaning no further action was required. The second related to a Year 11 student who received a positive test result yesterday morning. We decided to send the whole of Year 11 home in the first instance whilst we carried out an internal track and trace process. This process identified 38 students and six members of staff who have been asked to self-isolate for fourteen days from the point of close contact. We have contacted all affected students directly; all other Year 11 students will be returning to school today.

Neither case appears to have any connection to previous in-school cases.

<u>Household isolation guidelines – a reminder</u>

The vast majority of families are adhering to government guidelines and isolating together when one member of the household displays any COVID-19 symptoms. This diligence has undoubtedly contributed to the lack of transmission within school. However, in a small number of cases parents have sent students into school despite other members of the family displaying symptoms.

To be clear, if anybody in your household is displaying symptoms (a persistent cough, a high temperature or a change in taste or smell) the whole household must isolate for fourteen days or until a negative test result is received. <u>Do not</u> send your child into school – in so doing you threaten the health and wellbeing of others.

Microsoft Teams Day – Tuesday December 1st

A reminder that students will be working from home on Tuesday December 1st as we launch our new online learning platform. In preparation, please make sure that your child can access and navigate Microsoft Teams <u>before</u> the day itself.

Guidance videos on how to log in, navigate the site and hand work in are all available here: Home Learning How To Guides - YouTube

If your son or daughter is unable to access Teams after following the guidance in the videos above, please contact the school for support this week so that we can resolve the issues before Teams day itself.

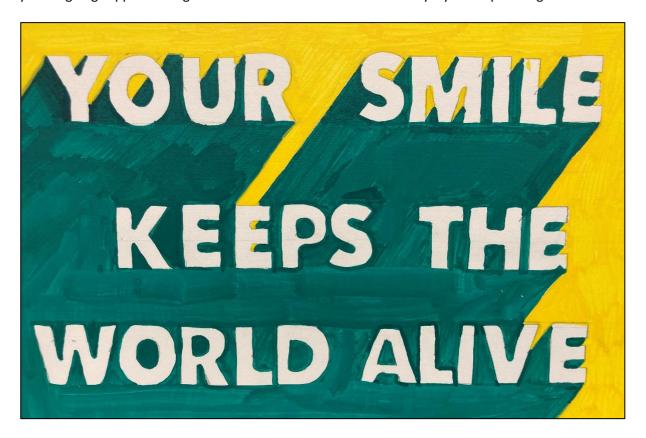
School will be open for the following groups:

- i) Students who are unable to work at home without supervision
- ii) Students who do not have access to an internet connection or suitable device at home.

If your child will be working at home on December 1st, no action is required. If you need your child to come into school, you must complete the following form – the final deadline is tomorrow, Wednesday 25th November.

Form to request a supervised study space on Microsoft Teams Day

I will finish with another piece of artwork produced during last week's session. Thank you for your ongoing support during these uncertain times. We will certainly try to keep smiling!



All best wishes,

Matthew Sadler Head