

17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear parents/carers

I am writing to inform you we have become aware that there have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. As a result of this, we have been instructed to ask all of our sixth form bubble to remain at home for a period of self-isolation. Public Health England has advised us that students should self-isolate until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. This means that they should not return to school until Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Last night all of these students' families were contacted.

As you are aware and in line with DfE guidance, UHS is operating a year group bubble system as this allows students to access classrooms across the range of specialist subjects that they study. **I would like to reassure you that this means that the school remains open for all other students in Years 7-11 and providing your child remains well they can continue to attend school as normal.**

I would like to reiterate that it was always recognised that the reopening of schools nationally carried a degree of risk. The overarching principles for the risk management of reopening schools in September 2020 are that measures are proportionate and based on Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE) guidance ([click here](#)). The reopening of schools is an exercise between balancing the school's commitment to providing an education for all students whilst minimising any risks in relation to contraction and transmission of COVID-19. School leaders support the government's ambition that all children and young people return to their place of education and have access to a full curriculum.

### **Further Information**

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

A number of inquiries have been received about the current situation. The responses to these are summarised as follows:

### **Who should self-isolate and what does this mean?**

Only students in our sixth form bubble are asked to self-isolate until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. They must follow the normal government guidelines for self-isolation. This means in short that they should not leave their home for any reason. They should try to avoid contact with anyone they live with as much as possible and friends and family should not visit the home. Please note that others in the household or support bubble are not required to self-isolate at this point unless they develop COVID-19 symptoms.

### **If the student with the positive COVID-19 test has siblings, do they need to self-isolate?**

Yes. All members of the household need to self-isolate.

### **I believe that my child has had close contact with a sibling of the student who tested positive. Does my child need to self-isolate?**

No. If a sibling develops symptoms or has a positive test, school staff will contact all families of students who have had close contact with the sibling to advise them of the next steps. School staff will update the wider school community of any further positive COVID-19 test results.

Principal: Nigel Clemens BSc, MA

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**My child uses the same facilities as the sixth form bubble. Should I be concerned?**

Any specialist classroom used by more than one bubble is thoroughly cleaned before and after use. Each year group has its own designated toilet facilities that are cleaned throughout the day. All students are expected to follow preventative hygiene measures; these control measures allow the school to operate year group communal spaces.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the community for its unwavering support during these unprecedented times. I will continue to provide information to parents and carers on a regular basis and trust that although this letter brings bad news in the short term that it provides clarification and reassurance.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N B Clemens', written over a horizontal line.

**N B Clemens**  
**Principal**