



**Trinity School**

A Church of England  
Academy

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Ms. Jo Hawkin  
Headteacher

14 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

After a month with no positive cases of Covid-19 in the school community, we had a small number of cases in school last week. These have affected the Year 9, 11 and Sixth Form bubbles, with a small number of students in Year 7 and 10 also having to isolate. An update letter will follow for Year 11 parents/carers later today, after we have spoken with Public Health. Whilst some of the individuals that have tested positive for the virus have had minor symptoms in school, none displayed the three main symptoms of coronavirus initially and some have been asymptomatic. All the safety measures we have in place help to reduce the transmission of the disease and we act quickly when cases arise, following government guidance and public health advice. It is important that we continue to be vigilant this week as Christmas approaches.

As I said in my message yesterday, a number of staff have been asked to self-isolate via the NHS track and trace app. Although teachers will be working hard to provide as many online lessons as they can, some staff may be needed to cover the lessons of staff isolating at home instead. If this is the case, work will be provided by departments via email, Office 365 and ClassCharts. Students should check all areas for work and look out for Teams invites, too. If they need help with IT, please contact the year team for support. Staff will be working hard to provide as much in person teaching remotely as they can, but this is difficult when half a class is isolating, for example. Please understand that teachers are doing their best in difficult circumstances, both in school and at home.

Some parents have told us that they are concerned about transmission just before Christmas and we do understand that there are varied personal views about this. However, attendance expectations remain unchanged, in that attendance at school is mandatory. We have been informed that if there is no medical or other valid reason, other than parental preference, then there is no expectation that schools should continue to provide Free School Meals to a child's home or provide a home learning curriculum and that such absences should be recorded as unauthorised. We have a legal duty regarding this. I understand that this may cause upset for some, but it is important that students are able to come to school when school is open.

I will be also sending a letter about the coronavirus testing pilot today which requires you to give consent for your child to be tested. Please do sign up for this as it may help to limit disruption when we return after the holidays after families have been mixing more widely than at present.

With best wishes

Yours Sincerely

Ms. J Hawkin  
**Headteacher**