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Dear Parent/Carer

This afternoon we were advised by parents that there have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19, in Year 11 and Year 8, from one family.

The School is disappointed that on a number of occasions parents have decided to send their children to School whilst waiting for a COVID-19 test result.

If you or a member of your family have made a decision to go for a test, you are confirming that you believe there is a risk it may be positive. The School can only keep our Community safe, if families behave responsibly and follow PHE advice. The failure of a small number of parents to follow the guidance is risking the health of the whole School community. Everyone needs to follow the guidance and remain at home until the result has been confirmed.

Having carefully reviewed and completed a risk assessment with Public Health England, 'contacts' within the School community have been identified and will be asked to self-isolate. Six Year 11 and three Year 8 students were in close contact and met the Public Health England criteria outlined below. All other students are to continue to attend School as per the current arrangements.

The School has a robust system to identify and track potential contacts. On receiving confirmation of a positive COVID-19 case, a team of senior teachers work collaboratively to interview the student, collect information about where the person was sitting and who they interacted with. Each of the identified students is interviewed and information is collected before contact is made with Public Health England. The case is then jointly reviewed, with PHE who provide the School with specific guidance on what actions need to be taken. At every turn we follow the guidance provided by the health professionals.

Standard Contact Definition:

- a person who has had face-to-face contact [within one metre], with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:
 - being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
 - having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
 - contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus [COVID-19] will be a mild illness.

Yours faithfully

M O'Hagan
Deputy Headteacher

Specialist Visual Arts Academy