



23 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope you and your family are well as we arrive at the end of the first half-term. I have been so proud of our students and staff for quickly adapting to the new safety protocols so after staying safe, learning has always remained our primary focus. It is timely for me to update you on some changes for next half-term as well as provide you with some frequently asked questions.

In addition to our existing deep cleaning routines, we will now be regularly treating all classrooms with a polymer-based sanitiser that coats all furnishings with a protective layer. Furthermore, we will be increasing the availability of hand sanitiser for student use across the school site.

Such additions mean that we are able to change our rooming for lessons next half-term. Lessons will now be based in the relevant subject departments. As well as providing an improved learning experience for our students, this change will reduce transition time between lessons and lead to a significant increase in learning time for your child over the course of the academic year.

Over the last two weeks we have received a frequent set of questions concerning self-isolation:

Why is my child still self-isolating when the student that tested positive is now back in school?

Students should self-isolate for at least 10 days if they have symptoms of coronavirus and tested positive. If they have symptoms, the 10 days starts from when the symptoms started. Students identified as a close contact of a person who has had a positive test result for coronavirus must immediately self-isolate at home for 14 days from the date of their last contact.

My child has been asked to self-isolate as they have been in close contact with a student who has tested positive. If I organise a test for my child and they test negative, can they return to school?

Only people who are symptomatic are eligible for free NHS tests. Even if tested negative, government guidance states that the individual should still self-isolate for the full 14 days. This is because that person could still suffer symptoms after being tested.

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My child has been asked to self-isolate as they have been identified as a close contact. Does my whole family need to self-isolate even though we are not showing any symptoms?

No, only the child has to self-isolate for 14 days.

If my child tests positive for COVID-19 over the weekend or during a school holiday, should I still inform the school?

Yes, as the school will need to identify any individuals who are deemed as close contacts with the infected person for the two days before symptoms started. Please email details to the Business Operations Manager, Mrs L Hackett on lhackett@toothillschool.co.uk. We have a legal duty to inform the families of these individuals.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support during a challenging term for all and I hope you and your family enjoy a restful half-term break together.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Eardley', written in a cursive style.

Dr C Eardley
Head of School