



Archway

6 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19 Update

We have been advised by Public Health England that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school.

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.

After investigating the case, it has become evident that no other member of the school community has been in close contact with the person concerned.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

Uniform

As the weather becomes colder, students are choosing to wear extra layers. Please support our efforts to keep high standards with our uniform. Hoodies are not part of school uniform. If the weather is cold, we encourage students to wear thin layers which cannot be seen underneath the uniform in addition to a normal coat when necessary. The School is also investigating the possibility of sourcing an additional top as an optional item of uniform as some classrooms may be cold.

Thank you for your kind donations of uniform to School. We appreciate this generous gesture and the items will be put to good use.

Did you know that Bateman's, our uniform supplier, has a loyalty scheme which gives discounts to returning customers? Please contact Bateman's for further information.

Homework

We encourage you to support our efforts to get 100% returns on homework. Using our SatchelOne website, it is possible to see all homework that has been set and the dates when assignments are due. Students can 'tick-off' work that has been completed, but do ask your child to show you what was submitted as in many cases, work is being uploaded to the teacher to avoid books being taken in.

Feedback

In an appendix to this letter, we have included notes from our recent Headteacher Q&A session which was attended by approximately 25 parents. We hope to have a similar meeting before the Christmas break.

Thank you to those parents who have completed our survey about access to the internet and devices. If you have yet to complete it, we would appreciate this information as it is very useful for our planning.

Safety

A message from Network Rail:

Sunday 25 October – Friday 6 November inclusive

We are carrying out work in the Bristol area which will mean all freight trains and some passenger trains will be diverted via Gloucester. Due to this, there will be an increase in high-speed trains on the line that runs near your child's school every day during this period. Please take extra care while using the level crossings. Where there are barriers, please allow extra time to travel as they will be down more often than usual. For more information on level crossing use, please visit:

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/looking-after-the-railway/level-crossings/>

Due to the increase in trains, you may also hear slightly more noise than normal.

COVID-19 Further Information

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If

you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours faithfully



Kieron P Smith
Headteacher

Appendix

Headteacher's Q&A Session

30th September 5:00pm

Number in attendance: Approx 25 parents

Main points discussed:

- ShowMyHomework (now SatchelOne): Parents reporting two issues; students crossing off work as done when it is not and too many alert messages coming through on emails. Head to report this to SatchelOne to see if the messaging can be put on hold. Regarding ticking off work when it is not done, it is suggested that we have a two-pronged approach. Please check that your child can prove the work is done and also look out for messages from school as teachers are supposed to log any homework that is not done, this is then collated and a letter sent when a threshold is reached.
- Perception of Archway in the Community: It was reported by one parent that potential parents may feel nervous about sending their child to Archway. There is no quick fix here, but we agreed that more needs to be done in terms of promoting the School and in particular focus on the good news stories such as the top universities that many of our students go to and the good work that students are doing in the community.
- The Head mentioned that a PTA is being formed and encouraged those present to consider joining. There are also forthcoming parent governor vacancies. Look out for communications.
- Questions were asked about how the School is helping to monitor the welfare of students returning to School, in particular those in Year 11. The Head reported very positive meetings with the Heads of Department who stated that due to the plans that had been put in place over the COVID break and the fact that at Archway our Year 10 and 11 students actually started their GCSEs early in Year 9, this has meant that we have time to complete all the courses in advance of next year's exams. This positive message needs to be shared with the students to give them confidence.
- One parent commented that homework does not appear to be set in one of the core subjects for their child. Headteacher to speak to the Head of Department and a report will be run to see if this is common across the department.
- An important point was raised about the message being given to students upon their return to School. For those students who have engaged fully, some felt that the message being given that "if you did not do much in our time away, it's OK" could be seen as demoralising the majority who did engage. It's better to turn this around and give the message to the engagers that they have done very well and that they have put themselves in a strong place.
- A question was asked about the summer examinations. The Head reported that there have been some reductions in the assessments planned for next year and that teachers were informing the students about these changes. As yet, the window for examinations is still May/June 2021.
- Next Q&A Session will take place before Christmas.

Meeting closed at 5:45pm