



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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18th November 2020

Dear Parents,

As you will now know, we have been sadly informed that we now have two confirmed cases of COVID -19 in the Sixth Form. We have one confirmed case in Year 12 and one confirmed case in Year 13. You'll understand that we're both disappointed that this has happened now, but also pleased that we have avoided this so far.

We have undertaken extensive contact tracing for the two cases within school over the last day, and have confirmed that 25% of the Key Stage (across Year 12 and Year 13) have had some form of contact that requires them to isolate for the Public Health England guided time of 14 days. We have contacted each of these individuals directly. In addition to this, we are isolating 6 members of staff based on their contact with confirmed cases. None of the staff or students we are isolating are currently showing any symptoms.

Our primary concern over the next weeks is that we limit the spread of this virus within the year groups, and within school. We feel we owe this duty to families who will rightly have concerns about vulnerable family members, but also to staff and to students in similar positions.

To this end, **we are asking that Year 12 and Year 13 students are to stay off school for a defined two-week period.** This period ends for **Year 12 on Monday the 30th November** and Year 13 until **Wednesday 2nd December**. There are a limited number of cases within Year 12 where we believe that there has been contact between them and a Year 13 student we are asking those students to remain at home until the 2nd. They will be notified individually. If you have a sibling in another year group they can still attend school unless your son/daughter develops symptoms, in which case you should follow existing advice from the school.

To be clear, those who have to isolate will be sent a separate letter for each student affected. For all other year 12 & 13 students, you will not be in school, but you do not have to isolate; you must still follow the current national guidelines for this lockdown period.

We believe that taking this action swiftly and decisively means that we limit any further spread within these year groups, allowing time for any symptoms to show at home, rather than in school.

As you can imagine, we take such a decision very seriously and our intention is that staff will switch lessons to an online format from tomorrow (19th November) and then live lessons will commence from Friday 20th November. A copy of the letter with the original timetable is attached with this letter. The nature of these lessons will vary slightly according to subject and staff member, but the core expectation is that live lessons are delivered via Microsoft Teams, following the normal timetable. Students are expected to attend live lessons or complete work across the school day in the normal way, and tutors will be in regular contact to check on any issues, including progress on UCAS for Year 13 students.



If your child develops any symptoms, please follow the guidance supplied by PHE and inform the school of the test and the result. As always, if you have any concerns or you feel we can do anything further to support your son/daughter, then please do not hesitate to contact their tutors, who will be able to provide support to you.

I am sorry that we have had to take these steps at this stage, but am sure you understand that we do so with the wellbeing of staff and students at their heart. I wish you and your families well in the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew Pike
Head of Sixth Form

