

24th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Positive Year 13 Covid-19 Case and further contact tracing

We received notification that there has been a Covid-19 case within Year 13. This case has affected one child who has tested positive in Year 13. This was a known direct close contact of the pupil who received a positive test a few days earlier. This pupil was already isolating, following the first positive case. We had already identified 30 pupils who needed to isolate from the first positive case and now we have identified a further 9 pupils from contacts that happened before the period of isolation started. The rest of the year group have not had any contact with the positive cases and so continue to come to school.

Please note the **siblings of the pupils isolating should not isolate**, only those who are in Year 13, who have been in direct proximity to the infected pupil.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and have taken advice from Public Health England and Ark Schools. We believe the response of sending these contacts home will keep this group and all our community safe. The way that we are running the school means that year groups are kept separate. The whole of Year 12 are already isolating at home due to their earlier positive cases. The year 13 pupils are kept separate from Year 12, and these two year groups are kept separate from the rest of the school. Therefore, we have mitigated the risks of transmission to other pupils. Where possible, including in secondary and for specialist teachers in Primary, staff will not need to isolate because they have been able to distance from the pupils. There have been no staff contacts of these pupils because they have successfully kept their distance.

The school remains open and other than those in these classes your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

Thank you to all our parents for their continued support. It is challenging for schools and for families to be living with the risks of Covid-19, but we are showing resilience and supporting each other through this period.

Yours sincerely,

Max Haimendorf
Principal