

**11 September 2020**

**Dear Parents/Carers**

It has been great to see our staff and students back in College and to see all of the students excited about their subjects and working well. In general, behaviour has been very good around college and students are adhering to the one way systems, wiping down their desks before each lesson, using hand sanitiser etc. With having all the students back, it has enabled us to assess the effectiveness of the measures we have put in place this year and we have made some changes during the week. We will continue to review the measures and will communicate any further changes through your son or daughter via Tyber. All major announcements will also appear on our website.

You will be aware that Government legislation is changing from Monday in response to an increase in COVID-19 cases and so

- We require all members of the College community to wear a face covering when in corridors and communal areas of College, except when eating, when outside and social distancing is observed and in classes.
- In line with Government legislation everyone should be in a maximum group of 6 except when in an educational setting.

We will be reminding students:

- That excellent hand and respiratory hygiene is important in preventing the spread of the virus. Use the hand sanitizers, soap and bins provided
- To be responsible and avoid physical contact (no shaking hands, embracing etc.)
- To keep a sensible distance between yourself and other students

There are two aspects of our response to COVID that I would really appreciate **your support** so that we can continue to stay fully open despite the increase in cases in Birmingham and Solihull. These are **face coverings and groups**.

**Face Coverings**

Guidance from central Government has stated that face coverings are permitted in College settings, and are **mandatory** in the college from Monday.

At the College, we need more students to wear face masks, when outside in college grounds, but there seems to be a reluctance among certain students to wear them. We will be telling students the many benefits of people wearing a mask, after all if their friend is wearing a face covering they are **respecting** your son or daughter, so is it not right that they should reciprocate? We will also be talking to them about the need to **wear a mask in Touchwood, and other shopping areas and on public transport**.

We would, therefore, ask that you please support this by **ensuring** that your son or daughter has access to a face mask (or a supply of face masks) and that you help us to reinforce this message to help protect you and your family from the risks of COVID.

**Groups**

From Monday, nobody is allowed to be in groups of more than 6 unless they are in College, and we are telling students that they should not gather in groups outside of College, particularly in the town centre or in any of the local parks and they should go straight home. I would appreciate it if you can please talk to your son or daughter about this.

Yours faithfully

*Martin Sullivan*

**Martin Sullivan**  
**Principal**

## Information sheet

### What to do if your son or daughter develop symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they 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.

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.

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:

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

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

If you or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> 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/>