



# KINGSWOOD SECONDARY ACADEMY

Principal: Mrs M Newman

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 @KingswoodAcad

9 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this finds you well and you are staying safe and healthy during this unprecedented time. As you will know from our recent letters, we are continuing to work closely with Public Health England regarding some confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the Academy, but also to help manage the wider response as cases rise across the community. In line with the latest government and Public Health England advice, any affected pupils and staff, identified through our contact tracing process, as well as the NHS Track and Trace notification system, are now self-isolating as a precautionary measure.

Due to the numbers of staff who are self-isolating, as a precautionary measure and in line with government guidelines, we have taken the difficult decision to close the **Year 8** bubble from Tuesday 10 November, with a view to welcoming these pupils back on Thursday 19 November. This is due to staff shortages as a result of the number of staff self isolating.

I appreciate this may cause some concern but I want to reassure you that, as an Academy, we take the health, safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and the wider school, community extremely seriously and are working in partnership with the local public health authority to ensure the appropriate steps are taken. We are also working closely with the Department for Education, and the Trust, to ensure the risk of further transmission continues to be minimised as much as possible, and we will remain in contact with our parents and carers to provide regular updates and information. Additionally; our contact tracing and robust health and safety measures have allowed us to effectively respond to this matter and ensure the Academy continues to be safe for all other pupils and staff, all pupils not in the Year 8 bubble should continue to attend if they remain in good health and do not develop any COVID-19 symptoms.

In the meantime, I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the steps that we can all take to reduce the risk of spreading infection. These simple measures are:

If your child, a household member or a member of your support bubble develops any of the following symptoms, we ask that you notify the school immediately and arrange a test by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by phoning 119.

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

If your child develops any of these symptoms, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days from the date when the child's symptoms appeared.

This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'. This is the same rule should anyone test positive in your household and support bubble at any time, the whole household and support bubble should isolate. 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>.

As a community, we can also help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 by:

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

I know these are challenging circumstances for our pupils, staff and wider school community and would like to thank you for your ongoing support during this time.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy or use the following link to access further information: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

Yours faithfully



**Mrs M Newman**  
**Principal**



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