



23 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you again for your support this term. As you can imagine it has been a very challenging time for our school community but everyone has come together to support each other brilliantly.

Our students have adapted really well to the new routines and expectations in school; many are reporting that they prefer the way we are having to do some things compared to a normal year! Their conduct has overall been excellent and the atmosphere in and out of lessons has been very positive. I've lost count of the number of students who have said that the lockdown has made them appreciate school much more and the opportunities they have, and staff have seen a real determination in students to make up for that time out of school.

Staff have been incredible across the school to implement the physical measures and the routines that have been needed to keep your children as safe as possible while also delivering as full a curriculum as possible for all year groups. In addition, as the prevalence of the virus in the community has inevitably brought a number of cases into school, they have been providing for students who are having to self isolate at the same time as those who are in school. I know from emails that I have received from parents how much this is appreciated.

As parents and carers you have also played a key role this term by being very vigilant for signs of Covid-19 symptoms, taking appropriate action and informing school of anything we need to know.

Please can you continue to do this during the half term break by using the email address:

reportcoronavirus@stmacademy.org.uk

It's still really important that we know of any confirmed cases so that we can carry out a risk assessment and identify any students or staff who are close contacts and let them know to self isolate.

The list below is a reminder of when students should **not** attend school but I'd like to highlight the following situations that unfortunately I know have happened on a few occasions this half term.

When a family member has symptoms and/or has a test the student should self isolate immediately and not come to school. Several times we have had phone calls to send students home because a family member has tested positive; **the student should have already been at home in these circumstances.**

We have seen that quite often, students who have tested positive initially have symptoms such as headache or fatigue which appear to improve but then symptoms like loss of taste/smell follow later. If a student has a test they **must not return to school until they have a negative result**, even if their symptoms appear to have gone away.

A student should **not** attend school:

1. If they have Covid-19 symptoms and are awaiting a test or have had a test and are awaiting the result
2. If they have had a Covid-19 test for any other reason and are awaiting the result
3. If they have tested positive for Covid-19
4. If anyone in their household has symptoms and are awaiting a test or have had a test and are awaiting the result
5. If anyone in their household has tested positive for Covid-19
6. If they have been advised by St Thomas More that they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19
7. If they have been advised by NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19
8. If they have returned from a foreign country that is on the list where quarantine is necessary

I hope you and your families have a good half term.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Watson
Headteacher