



St Joseph's Roman Catholic High School

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Headteacher: Mr T McCabe | **Deputy Headteachers:** Mrs N Yorke Robinson, Mrs J Morgan | **Chair of Governors:** Mrs P Jones
Registered Charity Number: 1075795 | **Facebook/Twitter:** StJosephsRCHS

4th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Y8

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to inform you that a Year 8 student within the school has tested positive for coronavirus. The student suffered symptoms on Monday afternoon and took a test the following day. We have just heard that it has come back positive. The student was last in school on Monday 2nd November.

We are now tracking which students had contact in the 48 hour period prior to symptoms. In line with advice from Public Health England and our local track and trace team, we now ask for Year 8 to isolate **for one day in the first instance. This means that students will need to stay at home on Thursday 5th November (Tomorrow).** This will allow us time to track and trace accurately and ensure that only those who have been in the same classes, with the student at lunchtime or have been in close contact are asked to isolate for any length of time. Our initial estimates are between 60 and 70 students but isolating the whole year group for one day gives us time to avoid missing anyone out. **By lunchtime tomorrow you will receive another email letter. It will either identify your child as a 'close contact' and ask that they isolate until the end of Monday 16th November or it will inform you that there is a negligible risk that your child has been in contact with the positive case and that they are free to return to school on Friday 6th November.** This pre-emptive action is as a precaution to prevent any community transmission through school and any major disruption for a larger number of students and families.

Whilst I understand that you may have concerns with regards to the above, I can assure you that the school have continued with face covering, social distancing measures where possible and cleaning and hygiene arrangements have remained in place throughout each day. For data protection reasons and out of respect we are not able to give you details of the member of our community who has tested positive, but we realise that you may be concerned that your child may have come across them during the school day or when travelling. Until you receive an email tomorrow, you should follow the isolation rules listed below.

[COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#)

See information below from the national guidance:

- If you have been informed that your child is a possible contact of a person who has had a positive test result for coronavirus (COVID-19), medical advice is clear: your child must immediately self-isolate at home for 14 days from the date of their last contact with them. There is no requirement for other members of your household to self-isolate unless anyone in your household starts to develop symptoms. Your child must not go to school and must not leave the home. **Please ensure that your child is not out in the community. This would undermine our efforts to avoid community transmission.**

If you or your child begin to show the above symptoms you must follow the national guidance. For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you develop symptoms you must self-isolate at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19. Visit [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) to arrange or contact NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access. **Please inform the school of any positive results by emailing safeguarding@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk.**

During this time of isolation your child will be able to access their learning on line simply by following this link on the school website <https://stjosephsbolton.org.uk/remote-learning/>. Students who have forgotten their login information can access this by emailing rmunifyrequest@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk, whilst those without access to the internet or computers have already been identified by their Head of Year, who will be in touch with a solution. It is extremely helpful if you can encourage students to learn their usernames and passwords. A huge amount of time is taken up in resetting passwords and this is time which could be used more beneficially elsewhere. Isolating is an act of selflessness. I know from personal experience that this can be a frustrating and anxious time. Please explain to your child that although it appears that we can do little to stop the impact of coronavirus, isolating is one small action we can take to prevent further spread of the infection. Please contact Mr Cartwright if you have any concerns about this process. Thank you for your ongoing support in this very challenging time. Please remember the families who are affected in your prayers.

Yours Sincerely

Mr T McCabe (Headteacher)



DIocese of SALFORD

