

23 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well.

Covid-19 positive cases

As South Yorkshire moves onto Level 3 VERY HIGH ALERT Covid-19 status, it is not surprising that we have had our first cases in school. We have had two cases altogether: one in Year 8; one in Year 9. As we begin half term it is still important that we are kept fully up to date with any positive Covid 19 cases. Please contact Gary Smith at smithg15@dartonacademy.org.uk using the subject header 'Covid19' if you need to pass on any information. At the back of this letter we have attached some reminders regarding Covid 19 and its symptoms.

Keeping up-to-date with the Covid-19 situation

Things change very quickly with a pandemic and it is possible, as happened last week, for us to receive news of confirmed cases. Please check your emails and texts regularly for important information, especially appertaining to Covid-19 cases and possible self-isolation. These may well be sent outside of school hours.

Timings of the School Day

We are pleased to inform you that our trial of wet weather start times has been very successful. **This now means that Year 8 and Year 9 lessons can begin at 8.25am.** Any students arriving after this time will be marked as late. Should you have any queries regarding the new logistics involved in the reopening of school, please email Mr Smith, Vice Principal at smithg15@dartonacademy.org.uk.

Parents' Evenings

Our Year 7 Settling In Evening took place yesterday, if you were unable to attend please see our link [here](#).

We are looking forward to our first virtual subject Parents' Evening for our Year 10 students on Thursday 12 November. We will be reviewing the evening and improving our practice following this.

Pumpkin Carving Competition

We were delighted and so impressed with over 50 entries for our pumpkin competition. It was so difficult to choose the winners; Beau from Y7 took the top prize. Well done to all our students who entered. Please find staff and student entries on the Darton Academy Website.

Tier 3 Update

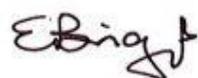
All our students were informed of the changes required to be made when moving into Tier 3 during morning assembly. The Local Authority have also informed us that any visitors to school from 2 November will need to be wearing a face covering.

Fleece Jackets

We will have further information regarding the fleece jackets after half term

I hope you all remain well and you do have an enjoyable break. I thank you for your continued support of Darton Academy and if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@dartonacademy.org.uk.

Yours faithfully



Elaine Briggs
Principal

What to do if you child tests positive for Covid-19.

If your child tests positively for Covid-19 please email this address straight away, no matter what time of day it is or whether it is during the week or at a weekend: smithg15@dartonacademy.org.uk. Your email will go straight to Mr Smith and we can then begin the process of tracing possible contacts and keeping school safe.

Social media

Please could you ensure that your child does not publicise his or her positive case on social media as it causes a level of panic amongst some members of the school community and makes it more difficult for us to manage the situation.

What your child must do if s/he is a confirmed "contact"

If your child is a confirmed contact, then s/he should follow this NHS advice:

- *If you have been informed that you are a contact, you must self-isolate at home for 14 days from the date of your last contact with the person who has tested positive for COVID-19.*
- *Self-isolation means you must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.*
- *It is very important that you follow this advice even if you feel well, as symptoms can take up to 14 days to appear from your last contact with the person who has tested positive for COVID-19.*
- *Self-isolating in this way will help protect your family, friends, the wider community and the NHS.*

IMPORTANT: Students showing signs of illness

Thank you for the support you are showing the school as we try hard to operate in the difficult conditions. Remember, the main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Contacting school

Should you need to contact us, our details are below.

Mr G Smith, Vice Principal - Pastoral and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

smithg15@dartonacademy.org.uk .