

19 October 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

We are almost at the end of a very busy and unusual half-term. Whilst it has been a long term, we have been overwhelmed with the way in which the students have returned to school following the lockdown months. As the area continues to be registered as 'High' risk for the Covid-19 virus, we have continued to promote all of the necessary guidance for schools and have balanced this with children returning to as normal a school experience as is possible at this challenging time.

I am sure you will be aware of all of the current discussions around a possible circuit breaker across the country to try and reduce the spread of this virus. One proposal is that the government and the local authority could decide to extend the half term break. Whilst we have had very few cases reported in school, the ones we have had have all been identified as community cases and quite often follow a weekend. This pattern across the school and across the local areas had led us to seek further advice. Therefore, in discussion with Public Health England and our Academy Trust Board, the decision has been made to **extend the half-term break** by two days **after** the half-term holiday. Students will return to school on Wednesday 4 November. The Monday and Tuesday of this week will now be allocated as INSET days for staff training.

If, however, over the next two weeks the Government do impose a lockdown then we will follow the guidance and keep you updated.

As with the current guidance and expectations, please do ensure that you follow the advice should your child develop symptoms at any time during the extended half-term break.

The main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- A high temperature – hot to touch on your chest or back
- A new, continuous cough – coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – where you notice you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child develops any of the symptoms, they must self-isolate immediately. Please ensure your child gets a test and then inform the school if that test result comes back positive.

If your child or any member of your household tests positive, you must self-isolate for 14 days. You only need to get a further test for your household members if they subsequently become symptomatic.

If your child has a test and the result is NEGATIVE, then they return to school the next day. This applies to a child who was symptomatic but received a negative test result – they can return to school as soon as they feel well enough. If they are self-isolating because someone in their family has tested positive OR if they have been instructed to self-isolate as they have

been in close contact with someone else who has tested positive, then they MUST complete their period of 14 days self-isolation. These instructions will typically come from Public Health England via a text message or via school if applicable.

As we still have one week of school to go before the extended half-term break, can I also remind you of the following:

- If your child has any of the symptoms of the virus, DO NOT send them in to school until you have had a test result that is negative
- If any member of your household shows any symptoms of the virus, DO NOT send your child to school until you have had a test result that is negative

I would like to end this letter by thanking you all for the continued support you show us, and for the way in which you support us with the ever-changing guidance we receive. I wish you all a very happy half term with your families.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "I. Tankard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I' and a stylized 'Tankard'.

Mr I Tankard
Head teacher