

25<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Jennifer Robertson MA**  
Academy Principal

Brompton Academy  
Marlborough Road  
Gillingham  
Kent  
ME7 5HT

T : 01634 852341  
E : office@bromptonacademy.org.uk  
W : www.bromptonacademy.org.uk

A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Brompton Academy COVID-19 Update 25th November 2020**

I am writing to provide you with an update on the events and activities which have taken place in the past two weeks in relation to COVID-19, to ensure that all of our parents and carers are fully up to date with relevant information.

At the start of the week, I wrote to the parents/carers of selected Year 7 and 11 students notifying them that we would be asking their child to self-isolate for 14 days. This was as a result of two positive COVID tests being returned for two students within the Academy (one in Year 7 and one in Year 11). The cases were not related, and the Academy immediately followed the guidelines from Public Health England to identify any students who were close contacts of these students.

- Within the student's friendship group and in close contact.
- Had been sitting next to the student for more than 15 minutes and within a space of two metres.
- Had close face to face contact with the student for more than one minute.

As a result of the Academy's hygiene and social distancing protocols which have been maintained consistently since our return in September, we are able to determine this information accurately, and therefore, limit the negative impact on the education of whole year groups. To date, we have recorded very few cases from amongst staff and students, and we continue to monitor our standards to do our best to maintain this. For reference, the COVID measures in place are:

- Bubbles for each year group to avoid mixing with other years.
- Separate entrances and exits into the building for each year group at the beginning, and end of day.
- Staggered finish times to alleviate mixing of year groups.
- Temperature checks for every student, and member of staff entering the Academy.
- Face coverings mandatory for all staff, and students in communal areas.
- Spaced, forward-facing tables in all rooms with designated teacher area.
- Hand sanitisation in each classroom, and at entry/exit from buildings.
- Separate break and lunch times for each year group, to avoid year groups mixing.
- Seating plans for each lesson to ensure effective identification of close contacts.

In the past two weeks it has become necessary to ask two of our year groups (Year 8 and Year 9) to engage with 'home learning' due to ongoing staff absences related to COVID-19 which have required staff to self-isolate or shield, in addition to the usual sickness absence that all schools face during these months. These year groups are due to return to the Academy on Monday 30th November, and I will write again to parents/carers later this week to advise as to any further updates specific to year groups who will be required to engage in 'home learning', based on changes to our staffing levels.

Finally, our UKAT Sixth Form students were notified last week that from this week, we will not be providing lesson-by-lesson cover teachers for lessons where a teacher is absent; instead their subject teacher will set work or deliver an online lesson. Students are being notified daily if their teacher is absent so they can work from home and we have also established a study area at both Sixth Form Hubs, which are supervised, and where students can attend and work independently if they so choose. This decision was taken based on feedback from students that often the cover available for Sixth Form lessons is not by specialist teachers and varies in quality as a result. Additionally, by not having students attend these covered lessons, we are further helping to reduce the number of students on-site at any given time. All students have been asked to notify us if they have IT requirements, so that we can provide these.

I hope that this letter provides an insight into the work currently being done to manage this challenging situation. I would like to thank you for your continuing understanding, and support as we endeavour to keep our staff and students safe whilst maintaining as much continuity as possible. Should the situation in the Academy change, be assured that I will keep you updated, and informed as soon as possible. Included below is a summary of government guidance for your reference.

Yours faithfully,

Jenny Best

**UKAT Executive Principal**

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19**

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

People who do not have symptoms should not request a test unless this has been specifically requested by Public Health England or the local authority.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

## Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- New continuous cough and/or.
- High temperature and/or.
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/>, or by phoning 111.

## How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

Do

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

## Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>