



7th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you know I had to take the difficult decision to close the school today as a result of a member of staff testing positive for Covid 19. The decision was taken in discussion with Jonathan Taylor, CEO Sapiientia Education Trust and Public Health England. Government guidelines are clear about what actions schools need to take following a confirmed case of Covid 19 and everyone who has been in close contact with the affected member of staff has been informed that they need to self-isolate for 14 days. Can I reassure parents that no students need to self-isolate or take any further action. However, a number of staff will now need to self-isolate for 14 days and it is for this logistical reason the school needed to close today.

Following a meeting with the Trust, Norfolk County Council and Public Health England this morning, I can confirm that the school will reopen on Tuesday 8th September for all students, however there will be some changes in routines.

School Meals

There will be no food service for the next two weeks and students will need to bring in packed lunches including drinks. Students who are entitled to a Free School Meal will be given a packed lunch available break time at their year group food servery.

Face coverings

All staff and visitors will wear face coverings where it is not possible to socially distance when moving around the school or in communal areas. It remains optional for students. Government Guidelines will be adhered to with regard to face coverings in classrooms, which remains non-compulsory and can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

The relevant section reads:

On the basis of current evidence, in light of the mitigating measures education settings are taking, and the negative impact on communication, face coverings will not generally be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. There is greater use of the system of controls for minimising risk, including through keeping in small and consistent groups or bubbles, and greater scope for physical distancing by staff within classrooms. Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided.

All other arrangements and routines remain in place. As indicated above a number of staff are now needing to self-isolate including support staff and teaching staff, the Trust has ensured that support is in place to ensure the school can open safely and effectively. I will also need to self-isolate and will be in close contact with Mr Dwight and Mrs Fisher (Director of Education, Sapiientia Trust) to ensure the school runs effectively during the coming two weeks.



Be the best we can be

I understand that this is a very difficult time for students, this setback is disappointing particularly given the very positive start the school made on Friday. I hope you are reassured by the swift action that the school took and that the safeguards and procedures that were put in place have enabled the school to reopen within 24 hours. The situation we all find ourselves in is new and daunting and I am very appreciative of the messages of support and goodwill that we continue to receive from our parents.

I will continue to keep parents regularly updated as needed.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Fell
Headteacher

