

Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Update on current Year 11 self-isolation and arrangements for the end of term**

As you are aware, we have taken precautionary measure with Year 11 in agreement with Public Health. This is because we have a suspected positive case of Corona Virus in Year 11 and we are still waiting for the test result to come through. In order to limit the impact of any possible transmission we have asked Year 11 to remain at home in self-isolation as we are treating this as a positive case, and we are following the timeline of a positive case.

In assessing the risks, we have followed the national guidance and have identified that across the year group there would be a significant number of students potentially affected by this current reported case. In line with the national guidance, the whole of Year 11 would have had last contact with the suspected case on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and would return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, ending their self-isolation on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. If we get a negative result, then we will see Year 11 back in school on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. This is obviously our hope as we do need to see Year 11 back and in the classroom.

Sadly, in this case we are also aware that Tier 2 restrictions were broken which has added to the possible transmission risk to a small group of Year 11 students. The refusal of some of the year group to keep to the lock down restrictions, Tier 2 guidance and all the advice on social distancing and wearing of face coverings has not helped the ability to prevent the spreading of the virus. Please, as parents and carers, make sure that your child does follow the self-isolation expectations, that they remain indoors and that your child does keep to social distancing at all time. They must always behave safely to not just protect you as families but also the rest of the school community – their teachers and staff of the school, and other students. We do not want to see anyone at further risk, especially as we lead up to the Christmas season.

It is the risk associated with not keeping to these expectations which results in enforced periods of self-isolation, and of equal seriousness, the impact on their learning, their future grades and exam success. This, in turn then affects predicted grades and post-16 applications. We are being advised that colleges and schools will look at the predicted grades and know that they are a current indication of the standard your child is working at. It will be the final grades they get which will secure them a place at their chosen post-16 provider. Therefore, we need them all in school, learning, studying and following all the guidance we provide inside and outside of the school day. Year 11 must be attending all their online lessons and logging in as usual and on time. We are doing everything we can to reduce the disadvantage to them at this time.

**If we have the all clear with a negative test result, then all Year 11 students must return to school, if they are well, on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. If the test result is positive, then Year 11 will return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.** Public Health and the Local Authority have determined that this is the necessary self-isolation period required for the year group.

Year 11 students are all aware of how often we repeatedly remind them, indeed nag them, about the importance of keeping to all the routines we have in place for social distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and no physical contact – Hands, Face, Space. This is very important, and we urge parents to reinforce this with their child. We must all do our bit to contain the virus in every way possible. All students must come to school with a supply of masks and follow all expectations of safe behaviour as outlined in the Staying Safe Onsite document. **I cannot reinforce strongly enough the need for responsible behaviour at this time.**

**Year 11 students in the Resource Base must attend school as usual at their normal time as they are not affected by this case.**

As you will appreciate, we have not taken this decision lightly to ask Year 11 to remain at home, particularly at this crucial time in their exam studies and preparation. It is important that we do as much as possible to contain the spread of the virus, whilst at the same time limiting the impact on the education, learning and progress of our Year 11 students at this important time for all of them.

We are asking you to do this and to help to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within this period of self-isolation.

Please see the link to the PHE Staying 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>

### **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.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

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.

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.

### **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, your 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 NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> 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

**Hands**

Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds.

**Face**

Cover your face in enclosed spaces, especially where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.  
It is now compulsory to wear cloth face coverings on public transport, shops and several other indoor settings.

**Space**

Stay 2 metres apart where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place.  
Keep your distance from people who are outside your household or support bubble.  
Limit social gatherings (including abiding by the 'rule of 6') and avoid crowded places.

**Further Information**

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

**Arrangements for the End of Term for Year 11**

As you know, the school term now finishes on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December and not Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**. This is in line with government guidance and advice issued this week. It is to enable schools to continue to monitor and be the first contact point for parents and staff who develop Corona Virus symptoms and prove to be tested positive for the virus. Parents and staff affected will still need to contact the school and we will then provide the relevant advice and guidance which will be to self-isolate where necessary. Further information will be sent to you about how to contact the school during the Christmas closure should you have a case of Corona Virus from 17<sup>th</sup> December – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This will have an impact on the school community and could lead to periods of self-isolation at this time which still have to be notified to parents, staff and the relevant authorities.

We will continue to place links to all Year 11 lessons on Show My Homework (SMH) to enable Year 11 to attend all their lessons up to the end of Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December if the test returns positive and you are all in self-isolation still. All Year 11 teaching will continue to be live on-line delivery at their normal lesson times. Positive

and engaging behaviours for learning are always expected. We will not allow any student's learning to be further disrupted. If you are unsure of your SMH log-in please email Mr Aylward or Mrs Maloney from your school email address at [saylward@conisboroughcollege.co.uk](mailto:saylward@conisboroughcollege.co.uk) or [cmaloney@conisboroughcollege.co.uk](mailto:cmaloney@conisboroughcollege.co.uk) and they will ensure that you get your correct log-in.

*Registers and student attendance will be checked at every lesson and taught session.* You should all be appropriately dressed (school uniform need not be worn) and ready to work in an appropriate place at home, equipped with your pens etc. and ready to learn. We are aware that your exercise books are at school. Your teachers have planned for this. Most of your lessons will be coming from your normal classroom at school. Your teachers will want you to participate in the learning and will take your mics on and off mute to enable this to happen. We do not expect any incidences of poor or disrespectful behaviour. We encourage parents /carers as far as possible to be present at the lessons and to listen to what is being taught and said.

You will all be following your normal timetable. During core PE, we will provide additional lessons in the core subjects which you will be expected to attend. We will email students about these arrangements. Our online provision this week means that no learning time needs to be lost. There are a small number of teachers also affected by self-isolation at present and they too will be self-isolating for the same period of time. They will be teaching their normal lessons via Zoom, including to their Year 11 classes.

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December – issuing of Year 11 Mock exam Results**

There will be a very important assembly for all **Year 11 on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December via Zoom at 8.40am**. The link will be sent to you. Parents are also invited to attend this assembly as we will be talking about the mock exam results and then issuing them to Year 11 at the end of the assembly. They will be emailed to Year 11's school email address. **It is important that all Year 11 students attend this assembly and that you use your school email address to join.**

After the assembly all the Year 11 Tutors will then be available for contact with the students in their Tutor Group. This will be an opportunity to discuss and talk about the results you have, and the immediate actions needed. There will be an additional opportunity for parents and Year 11 students to meet with their subject teachers immediately after Christmas to discuss their mock exam results.

Term ends at lunchtime on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Year 11 will not be onsite on this day as the assembly, issuing of exam results will be done electronically.

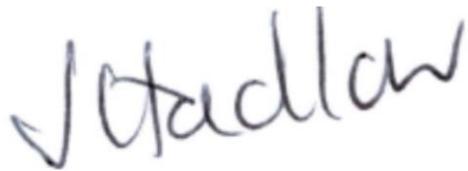
We do appreciate and understand that for many, this will be very disappointing especially in the lead up to Christmas and just after the mock exams.

So many of our Year 11 students have worked very hard, been in school and are doing their best in challenging times. We have already seen fantastic attendance at our after-school and half term holiday intervention sessions which is showing us how serious many of our young people are about their future successes and their desire to learn.

We will continue to do everything we can to ensure your children's progress is not hampered by these uncertain times. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Mrs Maloney, Head of Year 11, at [cmaloney@conisboroughcollege.co.uk](mailto:cmaloney@conisboroughcollege.co.uk) or Mr Cavadino, Deputy Headteacher, at [icavadino@conisboroughcollege.co.uk](mailto:icavadino@conisboroughcollege.co.uk)

Please do reiterate the importance of safe Corona Virus behaviour to your child and the need to keep to Tier 2 instructions and guidance. We do not want to see London or the local area in Tier 3 or anyone affected by becoming unwell in any way. Please do all you can to reduce any risk of transmission as far as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Hadlow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a checkmark at the beginning.

Mrs J Hadlow  
Headteacher