

28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

### **Return to Schools in *The Collegiate Trust***

We are thrilled to be close to welcoming back all of our pupils and students to our schools in Crawley and Croydon early in September. Those who were able to return in the summer term will have seen the safety measures and systems we have put in place, in line with the government's guidance to protect our students and staff as far as possible from coronavirus. All students will be fully inducted into these new procedures when they return.

In addition to physical changes in our school buildings, it is crucial that we all stay alert to possible cases of coronavirus in our own households, and always act to prevent the possibility of spreading the disease to others. Therefore, attached to this letter is a set of actions for you to follow should your child, or someone in your household, develop symptoms of coronavirus. Please follow these instructions carefully and fully, and contact the school directly if there is anything of which you are unsure.

Whilst I know that the return to school will bring anxiety, please remember that the latest medical evidence is that children and young people are less likely to develop symptoms or to become seriously unwell if they contract the virus. However, rest assured that in each of our schools we have stringent measures in place to try to keep all of our communities safe from the virus.

I am sure you will be aware of the discussions around the use of masks and face coverings in school and the latest government position on this issue. The government has announced that **if a school is in an area of high transmission of the virus**, masks will be compulsory in secondary schools for the times that students are outside of the classroom and in communal areas; these are the occasions when they might have transient contact with students from outside of their bubble, and it is clear that other hygiene measures will mean that **masks will not be worn in lessons**. We are pleased **that our schools are not in areas of high transmission of the virus**, and therefore there is no need to use masks in our secondary schools – indeed there is some evidence that misuse of masks can be more dangerous than not wearing one. However, we recognise that some students may find the wearing of a mask in communal areas around school helps to reduce their anxiety about a return to school, and we are happy to allow them to do so should they wish;. If your child wishes to use a mask, please make sure you have instructed them on correct use and safe storage of the mask during the day.

Each school in the Trust has slightly different start of term arrangements and you should have received information directly on when your child should return. Whilst the year ahead will continue to be different, our focus now is to deliver a full and regular curriculum which will ensure that students catch up quickly on missed learning.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Gordon Smith**  
Chief Executive

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS REGARDING CORONAVIRUS (v4)

| <i>If ...</i>  | <i>Actions</i>  | <i>Return to school when ...</i>  |
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| <p>... my child has coronavirus symptoms</p> <p>This can be <b>any 1</b> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back</li> <li>✓ A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)</li> <li>✓ A loss of, or change in, their normal sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Do not send your child to school and do not come to school</b> yourself, nor send anyone from your household. Follow the <a href="#">government instructions on guidance for households</a></li> <li>▪ Inform the school and keep them updated with regular calls as requested</li> <li>▪ Your child and household must self-isolate and <a href="#">book a test</a> for your child</li> <li>▪ Inform the school immediately about the test result</li> </ul>         | <p>... the test result for your child comes back negative and no one in the household has symptoms</p>  |
| <p>... my child tests positive for coronavirus / Covid-19</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Do not send your child to school and do not come to school</b> yourself, nor send anyone from your household. Follow the <a href="#">government instructions on guidance for households</a></li> <li>▪ Inform the school immediately about the test result</li> <li>▪ Contact the school daily</li> <li>▪ Your child must self-isolate for at least 10 days. Other members of your household must comply with the NHS <b>Test &amp; Trace</b> instructions</li> </ul> | <p>... after 10 days, or when they feel better if this takes longer than 10 days. The symptoms may last longer than 10 days, but after 10 days the infection will be gone and it is safe to return to school.</p> |
| <p>... someone in our household or support bubble has symptoms.</p> <p>This can be <b>any 1</b> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ a new continuous cough</li> <li>✓ a high temperature</li> <li>✓ a loss or change in sense of taste or smell</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Do not send your child to school and do not come to school</b> yourself, nor send anyone from your household. Follow the <a href="#">government instructions on guidance for households</a></li> <li>▪ Contact the school daily</li> <li>▪ Your whole household must self-isolate and <a href="#">book a test</a> for the member of the household with symptoms</li> <li>▪ Inform the school immediately about the test result</li> </ul>                             | <p>... the test result for the member of your household comes back negative</p>   |
| <p>... someone in our household or support bubble has tested positive for coronavirus / Covid-19</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Do not send your child to school and do not come to school</b> yourself, nor send anyone from your household. Follow the <a href="#">government instructions on guidance for households</a></li> <li>▪ Contact the school daily</li> <li>▪ Self-isolate for 14 days</li> </ul>  | <p>... your child has completed 14 days of self-isolation and has not shown any of the symptoms of coronavirus / Covid-19</p>   |

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| <p>... NHS <b>Test &amp; Trace</b> has identified my child as a <b>close contact</b> of somebody with confirmed coronavirus / Covid-19</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Do not send your child to school</b></li> <li>▪ Make sure your child self-isolates for 14 days</li> <li>▪ Contact the school daily</li> </ul>  | <p>... your child has completed 14 days of self-isolation and has not shown any of the symptoms of coronavirus / Covid-19</p> |
| <p>... my child has returned from a country or region that is <b>not</b> on the <a href="#">government's list of exemptions</a> and therefore needs to <b>self-isolate for a period of quarantine</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Do not send your child to school</b></li> <li>▪ Make sure your child self-isolates for 14 days of quarantine</li> <li>▪ Contact the school daily</li> </ul>  | <p>... your child has completed 14 days of quarantine and has not shown any of the symptoms of coronavirus / Covid-19</p>     |
| <p>... we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Do not send your child to school</b></li> <li>▪ Contact the school as instructed</li> <li>▪ Ensure your child shields until you are informed that restrictions have been lifted and shielding has been paused</li> </ul> | <p>... the school informs you that your child can return</p>  |