



**HERMITAGE
ACADEMY**

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Dear parents and carers,

I would like to thank you for your support of the school in these very difficult times. We are operating under very challenging circumstances and following all government guidance to the letter. We are working with over one thousand young people in a very old building with many challenges and everyone is doing their very best for the students. They are also doing their best to manage within very severe restrictions.

COVID-19 is increasingly present in our local area and schools are no exception. As you will know, we have had to send a number of bubbles in Key Stage 3 home both last week and once again today. The positive cases of COVID-19 in each year group are unrelated and each one is unique. We have consulted with Public Health England regarding each case, which we must do, before decisions are taken. It is for this reason, there is a small time-lag between notification of a positive case and our calls home to notify parents that their child is in an affected bubble which needs to self-isolate.

Please could parents help us by letting the school know if your child has been taken for a test. Please do NOT send your child into school whilst they are waiting for the result. Also, please could you let us know by email to the main school office, if the test is positive, even if this is at the weekend.

A small number of parents have responded to staff calling them with extreme aggression and rudeness; staff should not be subject to this and it cannot be tolerated. We understand that the whole situation is very frustrating, but we are working within government guidelines at all times and at great speed. It also takes some time to call significant numbers of parents.

I would like to thank those parents who have gone out of their way to support us. It has meant so very much to us all. We all wish, as you do, that we could operate normally.

With very kind regards

Dr Janice Gorch
Executive Headteacher/Deputy CEO