

Dear all,

As you have already been informed, last week we were made aware of a positive case of Co-Vid 19 in our Year 9 Bubble. We acted swiftly and identified those students and staff members that needed to self-isolate. Across the weekend, another positive case was identified resulting in 75 students in the year group needing to stay home.

On the basis of this information, I have sought advice from Public Health England and the DfE and considered the best course of action. We have reviewed our risk assessment and given that today we have received a further alert from a Year 9 parent about their child potentially testing positive; we consider that is in the best interests of public health for us to close the bubble. We are aware of a growing number of cases within the city and Portsmouth City Council are also in full agreement with this decision.

Your child has therefore been identified as needing to self-isolate until Thursday 26th November as per government guidelines. They will return to school on Friday 27th November.

WHAT NOW? We ask that your daughter/son does not attend school and that strict self-isolation is imposed to help prevent the further spread of this infection. To clarify, self-isolation means that once your daughter/son must stay at home, not go to school or public areas, not use public transport, and avoid visitors to the home. For more information on this please visit [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

MS Teams While your child is self-isolating they should login to MS Teams and register at 8:45am in the morning for support with wellbeing and academic engagement. They should then follow their normal timetable of three 100 minute lessons per day. They can find these lessons by clicking on the calendar link in MS Teams which will show them the events for the day and then they can just click to join.

If your child does not have a computer, but does have a smartphone, then they can join the events on their phone by downloading the App. Please make sure that they have plenty of paper to work on.

Where a registration, or lesson, can't be attended in real time we expect your child to engage with us so that we know that they are ok and are still making progress. Where we aren't seeing evidence of this we will work with you to establish the reasons and get learning back on track.

If your child does not have a computer, or a smartphone, we will post home a pack of work for them to complete and hand in to their teachers for marking. Please use this [MS Form](#) to alert us to needing one of these packs.

RETURN TO SCHOOL DATE: Friday 27th November, 2020

NEXT STEPS While my team and I understand and empathise what a difficult time this is; juggling work, home and remote learning is no easy task, we ask that you please join us in the effort to combat further spread of Covid-19 at The Portsmouth Academy.

This effort includes, but is not limited to, strict self-isolation at home, and when your daughter/son does return to school, we expect them to follow the national safety measures outside of school too; all students should remember the need to socially distance and the importance of face coverings in communal/public areas.

I appreciate that this decision will have an impact on our school community and we will be working hard to make this transition as smooth as possible for all students.

We appreciate your ongoing support during this ever-changing time and if you have any queries please call or email the school office and we will help as best we can.

Your sincerely,

Rachel Grey



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