



The Arnewood School

11-19 Academy

Working Together - Shaping Tomorrow

Gore Road
New Milton
Hampshire
BH25 6RS

Tel: 01425 625400
Fax: 01425 625425

Email: enquiries@arnewood.hants.sch.uk
www.arnewood.hants.sch.uk

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Dear Parents/Carers

Re: COVID Update

Ahead of the national lockdown commencing on Thursday, I thought I would take the opportunity to update you on the current position in school.

Regrettably the number of positive test results are increasing nationally and we are all aware of anticipated pressure on the NHS and critical care facilities. The Office for National Statistics estimates that 2% of 11-16 year olds tested positive over the last week. While the spread of COVID seems low locally, it is concerningly much higher not far away in Bournemouth and Poole.

You will be aware that we had our first positive test within the school community resulting in a number of students being asked to self-isolate as a precaution. I am sure you will share our concern for the young person who tested positive and their family.

You may be interested to know that in instances such as this, schools follow a well-documented protocol. We are required to follow the advice of a Department for Education call operator who ensures current Public Health England regulations are followed. This includes distribution of the standard letter you received, as well as more obvious precautions such as cleaning of classrooms. Schools undertake a rapid risk assessment that includes identifying members of the community who were within 2m for more than 15 minutes or had close contact (face to face within 1m) for any length of time during their infectious period (48hrs before their test if asymptomatic or 48hrs before they presented with symptoms). We were able to do this by: -

- referencing seating plans from the student's teachers
- ascertaining how the student(s) travelled to/from school to identify other students
- discussing with the student or parent who else the student spent time with during their social time at school within their bubble.

In anticipation of the national changes happening from Thursday, I would like to outline a few changes we are making as part of our continual evaluation of COVID working processes and risk assessment.

COVID Support Worker

We have employed an additional member of staff, Miss Luz, to assist children who are self-isolating or returning to school and requiring support. She will liaise with teachers to ensure work is set on Firefly, and that this work is completed so students do not fall behind.

Reporting COVID Within Your Support Bubble

To help expedite this process we have set up a new email address, covid@arnewood.hants.sch.uk via which you must report: -

- that a member of your household has booked a test
- the results of a test
- your son/daughter is symptomatic (see below) and not attending school.

This email address will be monitored by a number of staff to ensure that we can respond to protect others. Please include your child's name, tutor group, and a contact phone number.



When Should My Child Stay at Home?

Please refer to the guidance on the school website <https://www.arnewood.hants.sch.uk/covid-19/> where additional information is provided.

May I remind parents to check this page to see the Year Group Alert system we have put in place so that you have an opportunity to hopefully plan ahead, for example, should you need to consider childcare arrangements if not now working from home. An amber alert means “be prepared” not that “closure is imminent”.

Club and Activities

We are postponing all visits, clubs and activities during the national lockdown. The current advice on sports activities is contradictory and we await a definitive DfE update on this in due course. We shall be continuing after school revision classes for Y11 and Sixth Form examination groups and currently intend to continue with mock examinations as publicised.

Visitors to the School Site

Please can I ask that you do not visit the school site without a prior appointment. Face covering, social distancing and hand hygiene protocols must be followed. Do not be surprised if the person you are meeting with keeps their distance from you, as we are trying to keep two metres apart where possible, because staff absence is likely to result in students missing their education.

Parent/Tutor Evenings

We have been trialling new software to allow us to operate parent tutor evenings via video conferencing. If this runs successfully with the forthcoming Sixth Form consultation evening we shall extend it to other year groups.

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, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

How to Stop COVID-19 Spreading

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of following the key public health measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in our school and the wider community:

- keep your distance from anyone who isn't in your household or support bubble
- wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds or more
- wear a face covering in enclosed public spaces
- self-isolate with your household and arrange a test if you have symptoms.

To this end, please ensure your son/daughter has a clean face covering every day in school, and that they regularly use their personal hand sanitiser to supplement that available in school. Students must arrive and depart on time, at their allocated times, so that we can maintain separation of year group bubbles.

I hope that you and your family remain safe during this next phase of national lockdown. Thank you for the many words of encouragement you have offered the school as we head into this period – keeping everyone safe and well educated.

Yours sincerely

N. M. Pressnell

Nigel Pressnell
Headteacher