



The Astley Cooper School

Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust

19 November 2020

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Headteacher: Edward Gaynor

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 update

As many of you will know, we have had two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in school this week. Two of our teaching staff contracted the virus.

One teacher became ill over the weekend and did not come to work on Monday. The second teacher became ill on Tuesday and was not in school. Students who were in close contact with both teachers were sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The teachers' colleagues were also advised to self-isolate.

The first case affected approximately 50 students but in the second case we sent home five classes and the Year 7 form group and form teacher with whom the teacher had been in contact in the 48 hours before the onset of symptoms. We want to do everything we can to minimise the risk to your child and your family.

We have 14 staff - including the Head of Year 7 and the majority of the Science department - in self-isolation. The Science teachers are setting work for all their classes and, for those students at home, there will be work in all subjects on Google classroom. We have a strong team of our own cover supervisors and will have three or four supply teachers in for the next seven days.

Once again, I would like to thank the families most affected by this for your understanding and support during this extremely demanding time. The school building is given an anti-bacterial clean every evening and was deep cleaned over half term, we have appointed two additional cleaners who work throughout the day cleaning communal areas, and all staff wear facing coverings in the corridors and around the building.

My colleagues are working hard to run the school as normally as possible and maintain a high standard of teaching. Please support us by ensuring that your child brings a face covering to school, follows the guidance about regular hand washing and use of the hand sanitizer provided around the building, and tries to observe advice on social distancing.

All Covid-19 related documents, including our most recent Risk Assessment, are on the website in a separate area for ease of reference.

We hope to have all staff who are currently isolating back at work on Tuesday 1 December.

Yours sincerely

Mr E Gaynor
Headteacher

