



## Year 8 Online Working Until the End of Term

15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear parent/carer,

I would like to start by thanking you all for the incredible patience and understanding you have shown these last ten days as we have had to ask an unusually large numbers of students to self isolate because of an increase in positive cases in the community.

Your sons and daughters have been exemplary throughout the process which has made a difficult situation a whole lot easier. I really applaud them for this and thank you for your support as we apply the rules currently in place.

My position is to educate as many students in school as we can whilst following the current guidelines and ensuring the safety of our school community.

Today we have been notified of two further year 8 cases, taking the total at home to over 40% of the year group. We have liaised with Public Health and the upshot of this work is:

- Public Health are confident with the measures we have in place to minimise the spread of the virus
- Public Health encouraged us to continue keeping as many students in school for as long as we safely can
- This third case in two days leads Bishops' to conclude that education should move online for the remainder of the term

We have worked throughout the year to provide the right advice and support – this is not the end of term anyone wanted but community transmission rates will inevitably affect schools, businesses and other services. Cheshire West and Chester is currently classified as an Enhanced Response Area with transmission rates continuing to rise.

### Public Health information

Following guidance from Public Health England and a risk assessment, we believe there is a good possibility that your child could have been a close/direct contact.

Your child is now required to self-isolate from **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021** this period is for 10 days as the incubation period (i.e. time between exposure to the virus and developing symptoms) is between 1 and 10 days. Please note that you will not necessarily be contacted by NHS Test and Trace as the school has been asked to identify all school contacts until the end of the academic year.

As a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus you are advised to book a PCR test for your child. Taking a test is not an alternative to self-isolating. Your child will still need to isolate for 10 days **even if they test negative** for coronavirus. You may continue to complete the LFD tests/available which can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered online. from <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/> twice a week throughout the holidays.

If your child tests positive between now and their return to school [in September?], please continue to notify [testresult@bishopschester.co.uk](mailto:testresult@bishopschester.co.uk) in addition to NHS track and trace. From the Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July we will not be responsible for tracing positive cases, but it will help us to monitor school transmission over the summer holidays. All students will be tested on their return to school in September.

If you're a close contact, but you've already tested positive in the past 90 days, you should not get tested but still complete the self-isolation period.

You can book a test online by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or calling 119 and selecting 'My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms'.

We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

If your child is well at the end of the period of self-isolation, then they can return to usual activities.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 10-day self-isolation period.

Please see the link to: Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

For most people, especially children, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

The most common symptoms of 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)

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. The isolation period includes the day the first person in the house became ill (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, whether this was an LFD or PCR test), and the next 10 full days.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as older people and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period

Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

### How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

### Online learning

The timing of any self-isolation cases is frustrating for students and families, but this situation is particularly disappointing with planning in place for next week to allow each Year Group to experience part of a Sports Day over the remaining three days of terms and for students to spend time with their Form Teacher and peers. For the remaining 4 days of term, students will continue to follow their timetable and can access the remote learning resources for their timetabled subjects via our web page where a Learning Programme for each subject area is listed. The link to this is here <https://bishopschester.co.uk/remote-learning/> and the password that all year 8 students need to use is **Remote2021**. Students will also be able to access a booklet for the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> July which has a number of tasks to work through in relation to sports day and our theme of 'Respect'. This booklet will be posted on SatchelOne for students to access next week. Work completed from the booklet can be uploaded to SatchelOne or emailed to their form tutor.

In addition to the learning resources, Form Tutors will be holding a Form Time Teams session with their form on Monday 19<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July [To download the Microsoft Teams app please click here [link](#)]. These will take place each morning starting at 8.45am. During this time, students can ask any questions about the resources they will be following. Students will also have the option to ask subject specific questions about the remote learning work to their class teacher via the message option on Satchel One. There is a wealth of online material which we have invested in to support learning should large groups be required to self-isolate. You may hear your child make reference to [MyMaths](#), [MathsWatch](#), [Seneca](#), [Tassomai](#) and [GCSE Pod](#) and these links can be used in addition to the work listed in the Remote Learning Portal.

I am sure we all share the frustration of seeing images on screen and behaviours in communities which are unhelpful – while schools are required to follow strict rules - but on a more positive note, I want to reiterate that our students are being exceptional in how they are coping with the latest disruption and I would like to thank them and of course you, for the on-going support we receive as a school.

Best wishes,



**Mr Ian Wilson**  
Headteacher