

> COVID-19

The situation with Covid-19 is evolving rapidly and as a day and boarding school we have a unique set of challenges. The safety and well-being of the College community will always be our priority however and our Back to School Covid-19 Guidelines, which were written based on HCC, DFE and PHE guidelines, continue to be thoroughly implemented and strengthened as necessary. You have received this week – and are repeated again below – some revisions to the school routine and timings that you need to be aware of for Monday. Your continued support and reinforcement of these measures with your children is essential. As a reminder these are the procedures that need to be observed:

How to stop Covid-19 spreading

There are things you can do to reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with Covid-19.

- Wash your hands with soap and water – do this often 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 nose and mouth 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

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 and smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms of Covid-19, they should remain at home and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. At that time all other household members must also stay at home, not go to work, school or other public areas, even for exercise. Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: nhs.uk/coronavirus . If your child develops symptoms and they go for a test, please inform us immediately and contact us again once the result is known. Further advice on what to do once you receive a test result (a result can be positive, negative or unclear / inconclusive) can be found here.

If your child has to self-isolate teachers have been asked to set up a 'Team' for each of their classes and will be posting lesson materials on the Team area to facilitate home learning. Students are advised to contact teachers through the Team if they need any further clarification about the work set. Please note however that the online work provision will not be able to be supported 'live' by staff as it was during lockdown. This is because they will still have their students in school to teach directly. If your child has finished all their work, if applicable they should be revising for their mock exams.

Covid FAQs

College staff are currently receiving a high volume of parental queries about the management of Covid in school. In order to limit the number of queries coming in at this exceptionally busy time for staff, we have compiled a list of FAQs which should address the recurrent themes coming through. Please be advised that the College is advised by the local Health Protection Team and our School Medical Officer and adheres to Government guidance on the management of Covid-19 in the school setting. The health and safety of the students and the wider community remains our priority.

Why has my child been told to self-isolate?

Your child will have been asked to self-isolate if they are a possible case* or a contact** of a case

Definitions

*Case – a person experiencing one or more of the most important symptoms of Covid-19 which are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

**Contact - Close contacts are defined as:- having had face-to-face contact of any duration (less than 1 metre away) with the case, coughed or sneezed on by the case, had unprotected physical contact (skin to skin) with the case, spent more than 1 minute within 1 metre of the case or spent more than 15 minutes within 2 metres of the case or travelled in a car or other small vehicle (even on a short journey) with the case.

How long does my child have to self-isolate for?

If your child has developed possible symptoms of Covid-19, he/she must self-isolate for a period of 10 days from the date of onset. In addition, other members of their household must self-isolate for a minimum period of 14 days (this may be longer if they go on to develop symptoms). For Day Students this will mean the people they share their home with, for Residential Boarders, this means boarders they share a room with.

I'm confident that my child doesn't have Covid, can he/she come back to school?

Unfortunately, no. Without testing, it is impossible for parents or the College to be certain that symptoms of fever, cough or anosmia are not caused by Covid-19. Therefore, your child will not be permitted to return to College if they are displaying any of these symptoms and will be required a negative test result or to complete the specified period of self-isolation before returning.

My child has not had any symptoms since he/she was sent home from school. Can they come back to school?

No. Without testing, even where symptoms have resolved, it is impossible to be certain that a student who has recently experienced symptoms of fever, cough or anosmia is not infected with Covid-19. Therefore, if your child has had symptoms of Covid-19, he/she must receive a negative test result or complete the specified period of self-isolation before returning to College, irrespective of whether their symptoms have resolved.

I don't agree with the College Nurse's decision to send my child home, what can I do?

You will appreciate that the College Health Nurses are working exceptionally hard dealing with this unprecedented situation and are, at all times adhering to Government guidance in determining when a student needs to self-isolate. If you are advised that your child needs to self-isolate, this will not be the personal opinion of the member of staff communicating this, but what the Government demands.

We recognise that the need for self-isolation may be a disruption and/or inconvenience to families, however, this is beyond the control of the Health Centre Team and we would ask you to be respectful of this.

I think my child may be 'playing the system' by claiming to have Covid-symptoms when he/she doesn't.

By necessity given the Pandemic, the College Nurses are adhering to Government guidance without deviation. In order to avoid the need for students (and potentially their families) to self-isolate unnecessarily, we would ask you to speak with your children so that they understand their role and responsibilities in managing their health and be mindful of the impacts of reporting Covid symptoms.

Why do boarding room-mates have to self-isolate?

Government guidance advises that 'close contacts' of a confirmed or suspected case must also self-isolate. On the advice of both the Health Protection Team and the College GP, the College defines boarders sharing a room as close contacts.

My child's room-mate has symptoms but my child doesn't. If I get my child tested, can he return to school/boarding if the result is negative? No. This is due to the incubation period of this virus. It is imperative that close contacts of a suspected case of Covid-19 carry out the full 14 days self-isolation; symptoms can develop up to 2 weeks after exposure to the virus. Testing negative in the intervening days does not confirm that transmission of the disease has not occurred and that symptoms won't develop.

NHS guidance does not advise testing for asymptomatic contacts. As there is already significant pressure on the national testing service, parents are asked not to take their child for testing unless symptomatic.

How can my child return to school sooner?

The only way the period of self-isolation can be curtailed is if the possible Covid case themselves receives a negative test result, in which case both the possible case and their contacts can return to normal activities. The College will contact parents of relevant boarding 'contacts' as and when we are notified of test results of boarding 'cases'.

My child has symptoms but I can't get a test. What can I do?

Without a test, every symptomatic child and their close contacts will have to complete the full period of self-isolation; 10 days for the symptomatic individual, 14 days for their household/close contacts.

Can the school test my child?

No. The government has provided all schools with only a very small number of tests, which are for use in exceptional circumstances only. The Government directs that the best and fastest way for students or staff to get a test result is to visit a testing site.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-home-test-kits-for-schools-and-fe-providers>

Following further consultation with the College GP, we have reassessed the effectiveness of the rapid response Covid testing kits which the College bought in a small number on the recommendation of the Boarding Schools' Association and have come to the conclusion that they are of limited benefit in the early detection of Covid-19. This is due to the delay in the IgG (antigen) becoming detectable in this test (some 7 days from onset of the illness). As early detection is of paramount importance in the boarding setting, we have therefore decided against using these tests as an initial diagnostic tool. These tests may be of some use in detecting whether students are Covid –positive after they have been symptomatic for a number of days. The tests will only be used after consultation with the College GP. This does however mean that the College is not able to carry out onsite testing and is reliant upon the availability of NHS testing.

Does the College recommend a provider of private Covid-testing?

The College is unable to recommend providers but would stipulate that parents should seek only PCR testing if they are considering sourcing a test privately. The College would ask parents to provide evidence of results before their child returns to school, where testing has been undertaken outside of the NHS.

My child is showing symptoms of Covid but why do his/her siblings also have to come home?

Government guidance states that where an individual is symptomatic, their household must self-isolate until either the symptomatic individual tests negative or a period of self-isolation is completed (10 days for the symptomatic individual, and a minimum of 14 days for the other members of the household). This means that siblings living in the same home will all be sent home from College where one is symptomatic.

Why is my child having to self-isolate due to his room-mate being symptomatic, when their classmates are still in lessons as usual?

Boarding houses are domestic dwellings and are therefore subject to different guidance from school settings.

As my child is a boarder, can they complete the self-isolation in their boarding house or Health Centre?

It is important that the College has an agreement with parents where students will self-isolate should this be necessary. Please see general principles below detailing responsibilities for self-isolation:

- All Flexi/Day Boarders will be required to self-isolate at home
- Weekly Boarders will be required to self-isolate at home (unless there is an extremely clinical vulnerable member of the household at home)
- UK based Full Boarders will be required to self-isolate at home (unless there is an extremely clinical vulnerable member of the household at home)
- International Full Boarders will self-isolate at College (unless the preference of parents is that they self-isolate with guardians within the UK)

A reminder that the Microsoft Form in the link below needs to be completed by all parents of residential boarders please. The form below will provide the College with important information regarding where their child will self-isolate should the need arise.

<https://tinyurl.com/hockerillselfisolation>

I've been asked to collect my child from College, why do I have to come immediately?

Parents collecting their child are asked to arrive at College as quickly as possible to collect their child, to reduce the risk of transmission.

What will the College do in the event of a positive case of Covid-19?

Should there be a confirmed case of Coronavirus in College, the College will contact the Department for Education's dedicated NHS Advice Line (in line with Government guidelines) who will advise what action is needed based on the latest public health advice, and work through a risk assessment to identify close contacts.

Who do I tell if my child is absent due to Covid?

Please report your child's absence in the usual way, specifying the exact reason (he/she is symptomatic or is a contact of someone who is)

Who do I tell about my child's test results?

Please follow the procedure for reporting absence when contacting the school with test results.

Will my child's absence from school be authorised?

Students who are absent from school for Covid-related reasons will be marked as such and the absence will be authorised.

My child needs a Covid test before travelling. How do we arrange this?

The College Health Centre is happy to help with administering tests for boarders ie (collecting samples) where parents have bought testing kits, but this will be the extent of the College's involvement in this process. It is parents' responsibility to ensure that they have arranged for the appropriate test for their child's travel needs and that any deadlines are met.

> CHANGES TO THE COLLEGE DAY

Monday - Friday		
Start	Finish	Details
08.45	08.50	Monday, Wednesday, Friday – Staff Briefing on Staff Briefing Team. Tutors to Form Rooms at 08.45 each day.
08.50	09.10	Morning registration and tutor / assembly time
09.10	09.15	Changeover
09.15	10.15	Period 1 (prompt end to lesson)
10.15	10.20	Changeover
10.20	11.20	Period 2
11.20	11.35	Morning break
11.40	12.40	Week A: Period 3 (Years 7-11 & 12). Period 3 ends at 12.30 for Year 13
11.40	12.40	Week B: Period 3 (Years 7-11 & 13). Period 3 ends at 12.30 for Year 12
12.30	12.45	Week A: Lunch for Year 13
12.30	12.45	Week B: Lunch for Year 12
12.45	13.30	Lunch Block 1 / Period 4
13.30	14.15	Lunch Block 2 / Period 4
14.15	14.40	Period 4 for all students
14.45	15.40	Period 5 (55 minutes)
16.00	17.00	Clubs

Saturday		
Start	Finish	Details
08.45	08.50	Tutors to Form Rooms at 08.45 each day
08.50	08.55	Morning registration
08.55	09.00	Changeover
09.00	10.00	Period 1 (prompt end to lesson)
10.00	10.05	Changeover
10.05	11.05	Period 2
11.05	11.20	Morning Break
11.20	11.25	Changeover
11.25	12.20	Period 3 (55 minutes)

> YEAR 11

Year 11 GCSE English Literature texts

As you may be aware, there has been much in the press in recent weeks about changes to the texts needed for GCSE English Literature this year. The present situation on our exam board, AQA, is that we are able to drop one of our Literature texts so that students will only be examined on three of the texts studied rather than four. It is therefore our intention to remove the Poetry Anthology question. This means that students will continue to study and revise for exams on Macbeth, Jekyll and Hyde or A Christmas Carol, and An Inspector Calls. There will also be an 'unseen' poetry question in their exam.

We will be communicating this decision to students this week and explaining how this will impact upon the Year 11 course and their mock exams. We will share further information with parents once it becomes available.

Mock Examinations

As it is nearing the Year 11 Mock examinations it is important to review the progress of students and aid them in making improvements prior to the start of the examinations. In light of this, all form groups will receive a box of revision aids as well as a reminder of the work they completed during the IB enrichment days last year on 'Reach for the stars'. Additionally, some students will receive notification that they have been selected for an intervention. This will be communicated to individual parents and students and these will run until half term. Following the Mock examinations further interventions will be put in place in preparation for the summer examinations.

If you have any questions, please email Mrs Humphris (Head of Year): year11@hockerill.com.

> CATERING

The pupils will have seen some changes to the kitchen and dining room that ensure everyone can eat safely with us every day. We have been busy behind the scenes planning and getting ready for the college reopening in September.

Social distancing is proving challenging for our catering teams, with the further introduction of the bubble system and the enhanced cleaning a greater demand has been put on the service.

Due to the COVID restrictions our approach has been to deliver a reduced menu offering, whilst still maintaining quality. We understand that this should not compromise the offer being fresh and nutritious, and already we have started to develop the service and increase the choice and range to our young people.

Thank you for your feedback, we have already met with representatives from the boarding community.

From this we have agreed the following:

- Increased student favourites on the menu
- Improved breakfast including cereal choice
- Introduction of increased baguette and sandwich range

There is nothing more we would like to do than to deliver the service back to where we were before March 2020 by allowing students to help themselves. Unfortunately, with the guidance we are unable to do this. To ensure that the students have enough food we will be displaying notices encouraging them to ask for more.

Again, I am sorry we did not get this right at the start of the term, but we are making substantial adjustments and the service is much improving.



> BOARDING

Please be aware that the Boarding Last Forum originally scheduled for Friday 16th October will now be held on Tuesday 29th September, starting at 19:00, the meeting will last for an hour. This event will be online and will be broadcast via Microsoft Teams. There will be an opportunity for parents to meet Mr Woods, the new Principal and there will also be a representative from Holroyd Howe present to discuss catering. As per usual, there will be time set aside for questions from parents.

If you would like to attend, please complete the Microsoft Form in the link below. An invite to the meeting will be sent to the email address you have provided in the Form. The Form will close at 17:00 on Friday 25th September.

<https://tinyurl.com/boardingforum29sept>

> YEAR 7

At Hockerill we have an annual and very special and enjoyable event for all of the Year 7 parents at the beginning of the year. This event provides our new parents with a great deal of information about how they can support their child at College, how we can effectively communicate with each other and how they can support their so or daughters learning. Government restrictions prevent any meeting happening live and on campus so this year we are going online.

The New Year 7 Parent Information evening will take place via Zoom on Wednesday 23rd September at 19:00hrs. All Year 7 parents have been sent an invitation letter and a meeting access code.

Parents in Year 8 to Year 13 can expect a similar invitation to a meeting of their year group very soon. Your meeting will take place over the next few weeks and will allow us to give you specific year group focussed information and updates and to share our plans for how we are caring for your children and developing our response to the global pandemic so each child can continue to make the best of the education we can provide.

Mr Whiteley

Head of Lower College

> GENERAL NOTICES

Michaelmas Clubs begin on Monday 21st September, here is a [link](#) to the Clubs Programme

Please be reminded to report student absence by calling 01279 658451 or emailing absence@hockerill.com

Please be reminded to keep your contact details up to date via the SIMS app.

