



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
Emmanuel Schools Foundation

18 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been so positive to welcome students back to school this term. The atmosphere in College is calm, purposeful and respectful and students are, on the whole, taking very seriously the importance of doing the right thing in respect of the COVID-secure measures we have in place. I'm sure that you share in my view that to have students at home for any longer would have resulted in some quite serious detriment to this generation with respect to their learning and well-being.

You will be aware that Gateshead is an area which is experiencing a rapid rise in the transmission of the virus and, as a consequence, a small number of Emmanuel students have sadly contracted COVID-19. These students are now self-isolating along with those who have been identified as close contacts. My thoughts and prayers are with those who are in this position.

Teachers are continuing to set purposeful work on ITSLearning for students who are self-isolating so that these students can make rapid progress through the curriculum, despite being at home.

In total, there are four students in three different year groups who have tested positive for coronavirus and who have had close contacts in school. We are aware that there are two other Emmanuel students who have tested positive for coronavirus but, due to their absence, have no close contacts in school. We have been in frequent close contact with our local public health team and can confirm that they are very supportive of the measures we have in place and are satisfied that we are doing all we can to keep the College safe whilst maintaining provision for all students.

We are working with PHE's health protection team to carry out a full risk assessment and identify close contacts of the cases. They have advised that there is no need for the school to close and we continue to follow guidelines to reduce the risk of infection. We would, however, remind people that it is important that anyone with any of the COVID symptoms of a high temperature, a new and continuous cough or loss and changes to their sense of taste and smell, self-isolates and gets tested as soon as possible.

If you develop symptoms, your household contacts will also be required to self-isolate. More information on self-isolation is available [on the NHS website](#).

Social distancing and frequent hand washing are two measures that will support us to prevent possible transmission. It is therefore important that students remember that when travelling to and from school, and when they are in school that they should maintain distance from others. When in the corridors and at lunch time, students should remain at least 1m from each other and 2m where possible. Students continue to be asked to hand sanitize when they enter each classroom and before and after lunch, and are encouraged to wash their hands frequently.

We continue to thank parents and students for arriving at their allocated time and using the Watergate Car Park when dropping off or collecting students. There have been a small number of occasions where parents have dropped students off on Consett Road. We politely fully request that

Watergate Car Park is solely used for this purpose. This prevents students needing to cross Consett Road or cross the entrance to College, both of which present significant risk to student safety.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Waterfield

Principal