



# High Tunstall College of Science

Inspire | Support | Achieve



Headteacher: Mark R Tilling

Deputy Headteachers: Peter W Hayward and Laura Ovens

15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to thank you for your support during the first two weeks of the term, the students have all been a credit to the college in the way they have settled back into college life. It is good to see students back in the building and working hard with their studies. I will aim to write to you on a monthly basis keeping you updated on all current and relevant information.

We are now getting to the final stages of the construction of the Car Park and we will be able to enter the site by the new entrance/exit from the roundabout in Elwick Road from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The Tarmac should be completed by Thursday with white lining on Friday and Monday. The refurbishment of the swimming pool is currently taking place and will be completed by 8<sup>th</sup> October and the surveys for the 3G pitch will commence on Friday with work due to start early November.

As we progress through the Autumn term we will inevitably see children and staff become ill, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers of the following key points around COVID-19:

Although Covid-19 can present with a number of symptoms, the ones that trigger a need to self-isolate and get a test are as follows:

- **a high temperature** - (this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- **a new, continuous cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- **a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste** - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If you are unsure if you or your son/daughter has the symptoms detailed above, we would advise you contact 111 for further advice.

Unfortunately, we cannot allow any visitors onto site. If you have any concerns regarding your son/daughter please, in the first instance, contact your son/daughters' tutor by email. If your son/daughter has an EHC plan please contact the College SENCO, Mrs Stobbs, who will support you and your son/daughter with their return to college. We will amend our risk assessments as we go.

To date as a college we have had one positive test, we have already contacted a small number of parents of the affected students. We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your son/daughter. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

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The college remains open and your son/daughter should continue to attend if they remain well. As a college going forward we will only contact you if your son/daughter comes into contact with another student who has tested positive and matches one of the criteria set below by Public Health England:

- **Direct Close Contacts:** Face-to-face contact with a person with a positive COVID test result for any length of time within 1 metre, including being coughed on, face-to-face conversation, unprotected physical contact (skin to skin). This includes exposure within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer.
- **Proximity Contacts:** Extended close contact (within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with a person with a positive COVID test result.
- **Small Vehicle Contacts:** Travelled in a small vehicle with a person with a positive COVID test result.

If you are at all worried or concerned regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Dave Pickford, COVID Lead via email at [dpickford@hightunstall.hartlepool.sch.uk](mailto:dpickford@hightunstall.hartlepool.sch.uk)

As a college we have many actions in place to avoid sending large groups of student's home as a result of a positive test. We are proud that our staff and students have adapted so well and through risk assessing our process and procedure that we know that we do not need to send large groups of students home. The key changes we have made are as follows:

- a) Fixed seating plans in all lessons
- b) Regular cleaning and fogging of all classrooms
- c) Continual promotion of good hygiene practice
- d) The college now recommends that it is good practice for all students to wear a face covering while in corridors and communal areas.

If in the event that you son/daughter is self-isolating they should continue to learn at home, providing they are well enough. Your son/daughter should follow their timetable to study each lesson every day. All resources they need for their lessons are uploaded to Microsoft Teams each week. When your son/daughter has completed their work they should email this to their class teacher. Staff email addresses can be found on the outlook directory or on the college website <https://htcs.org.uk/all-staff/>.

If your son/daughter develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to college and 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 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. **For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

If your son/daughter or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

## How to stop COVID-19 spreading

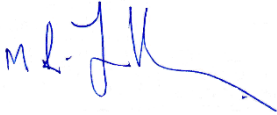
There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

Do

- 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

Have a good rest of the term and I will write to you with further up dates before we break up for half term in October. Please feel free to contact us should you have any further concerns.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Tilling', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Mr M Tilling**  
**Headteacher**