



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust

15th June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Coronavirus update

I am writing to let you know that we have had a confirmed case of Covid-19 in school today in year 7. We have identified all close contacts and those students are now at home for a 10-day period of self-isolation from the point of last contact.

A few parents have been asking school staff about the definition of close contact. The official guidance can be found [here](#) (and note that this makes no distinction between indoor and outdoor contact, although clearly outdoor environments have lower transmission risks).

It is clear that the increased transmissibility of the Delta variant of the virus presents an additional challenge, so I am asking that everyone continues to follow our precautions around twice weekly testing, face coverings in communal areas and regular hand sanitisation etc.

At the bottom of this letter is a message from Hertfordshire County Council that they have asked to be passed on to parents/carers. Cases in school-age children are rising, so this is a reminder to work together to limit the spread of Covid-19.

The announcement last night by the Prime Minister of the continuation of restrictions until 19th July means that we will need to keep our system of controls in place until the end of term. This sadly means that some in-person events will need to be cancelled or move to a virtual mode, and we will confirm this as soon as we have had an opportunity to review each event and conduct a risk assessment.

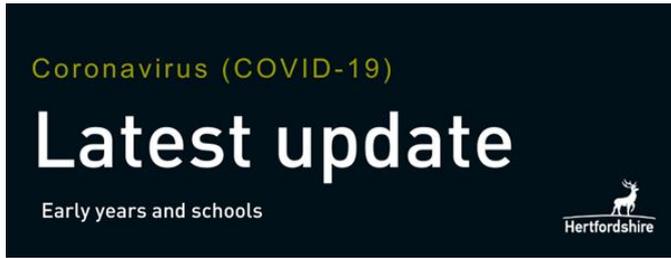
Uniform and hot weather

Given the high temperatures forecast until Thursday, we are allowing boys to remove blazers and ties until we review them. Hydration is important and we would encourage all students to have a water bottle that can be refilled at multiple points around the site.

Yours faithfully,

Fergal Moane
Head Teacher

Head Teacher: Mr F Moane



The Public Health team at Hertfordshire County Council has asked us to share the following information with you.

Firstly, we want to thank you for all you are doing to play your part and help protect your school community – you're all doing an amazing job. As we head towards the end of the academic year, let's work together to reduce the number of cases in our nurseries, schools and colleges and make sure less children will need to learn remotely.

We're now at a crucial time in our fight against coronavirus. In line with yesterday's Government announcement we're asking everyone to not drop your guard just yet – Covid-19 is still here.

There are simple things you can do right now to continue to protect yourself, your family and your school community:

Remember hands, face, space, fresh air – each school may have different rules around face coverings, but everyone aged over 11 should be wearing a face covering when in indoor venues. If you can still meet outside, do

Testing – students in year 7 and above are being provided with a free, regular supply of rapid tests and they should continue to take these twice a week. Parents and carers of children in nursery, school or college should also take regular rapid tests along with the rest of the community, by doing this we can all help to reduce the spread of the virus. You can find your nearest collection site or order online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest

Vaccination – please get your vaccine once you are invited to

Please do not send children back into education if they are sick or feel unwell – be cautious.

If you or your child/ren receive a positive result from a rapid test you must begin self-isolating immediately, not attend school and book a confirmatory PCR test.

If you or your child/ren have symptoms (**new, continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell or a temperature**) you must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

If you need help to self-isolate contact HertsHelp for advice and practical help with things like getting food and medicine and accessing financial support. Call 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

We know none of this is easy, but if we throw our arms around schools to protect them now, we can all look forward to the summer holidays we're hoping for. Thank you again for helping to keep yourselves and your community safe.

Hertfordshire County Council