



# NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' ACADEMY

*We believe in creating a community empowered with the qualities,  
skills and qualifications to enter the next phase of life with  
confidence and ambition.*

**Principal:** Mr D Tungate  
**PA to the Principal:** Mrs H Thornton

Robins Wood Road, Aspley  
Nottingham NG8 3LD

**Telephone:** 0115 748 3410

**Email:** [admin@nottinghamgirlsacademy.org](mailto:admin@nottinghamgirlsacademy.org)

**Website:** [www.nottinghamgirlsacademy.org](http://www.nottinghamgirlsacademy.org)

 [@NottmGirlsAcad](https://twitter.com/NottmGirlsAcad)

Date: 27 November 2020

Dear parents/carers

Regrettably, I am writing to inform you that more of our pupils have tested positive for Covid-19. We have had four more cases since I wrote to you last week. The cases are isolated from each other and we do not believe they represent a wider outbreak in the school. However, given we are currently in National Lockdown, it is concerning that there still seems to be a high level of community transmission.

I would therefore urge you to follow the rules and guidance from the government and continue to reinforce the Hands, Space, Face, Be Alert message below. Each case in school has a disruptive effect on the additional people that then have to go into self-isolation. If you are in doubt that your child has symptoms, please keep them off, arrange a test and only send them back when you have the all clear.

To reiterate what we have said in previous letters, in line with the latest government and Public Health England advice, the affected people (the person themselves and anyone classed as a close contact) have been identified through our contact tracing process and are now self-isolating as a precautionary measure.

In each case we carefully identify pupils who have been in close contact with the infected person. We do this by using the seating plans for the lessons they are in and by identifying who they have been in contact with at break and lunch time.

Because of the numerous measures we have in place and our ability to trace contacts in this way, the guidance from Public Health England remains that we do not need to close to a whole 'bubble' of pupils.

**Unless you have been contacted by us directly to inform you otherwise, your child does not need to self-isolate.**

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- We strive to fulfil everyone's learning potential. • We value high standards, hard work and a ceaseless desire to improve.
  - We provide a safe, kind, nurturing and inclusive environment. • We enjoy the journey together.



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The steps that you **must** take to limit the spread of infection are:

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All pupils must wash their hands using soap and water, for at least 20 seconds, far more frequently than usual.

When they cannot use soap and water, they must sanitise their hands using the numerous dispensers we have installed on site.

They should do this when they:

- Arrive on the academy site.
  - Finish using the bathroom.
  - Enter and exit the buildings.
  - Enter and exit classrooms.
  - Enter and exit the canteen and dining area.
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All pupils (apart from those that are exempt) must wear a face covering in communal areas.

Communal areas include:

- corridors
- toilet areas
- dining areas and queues (apart from when seated in the dining room)
- outside spaces (apart from in PE, dance or drama lessons)

They will mostly remain optional in classrooms, although a small number of pupils sat near the front of some of our smaller classrooms will be asked to wear them throughout their lesson in that room.

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All pupils must remain at least 2m from each other whenever possible and should *always* aim to be more than 1m apart.

When this is not possible – for example, when they are seated in classrooms – they must avoid being face-to-face.

Pupils find this most difficult at break and lunch times, which is why ‘outside spaces’ have been added to the list of communal areas in which a face covering must be worn.

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A vital precaution in controlling and reducing transmission of coronavirus is to be alert to the symptoms.

**If your child, or any member of your household or support bubble develops any of the symptoms – even if you are convinced it might be related to another illness - your whole household MUST self isolate for 14 days.**

In this situation please inform the school **immediately** and arrange for a test via [www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test](https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test) or by phoning 119. /Cont'd.....

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The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **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 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 your child develops *any* of these symptoms, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. 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>.

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

I know these are challenging circumstances for our pupils, staff and wider school community and would like to thank you for your ongoing support during this unprecedented time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Academy directly at [admin@nottinghamgirlsacademy.org](mailto:admin@nottinghamgirlsacademy.org).

Yours faithfully



David Tungate  
Principal  
**Nottingham Girls' Academy**

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