



PARENT BULLETIN

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Message from the Principal

Thank you for your support with face coverings this week, regardless of individual views on this decision, it is reassuring that so many parents/carers supported us with this.

We have had a lot of students and some staff missing school to self-isolate and I attach a letter from the NHS to this bulletin that says a little more about that. We are pleased that we have not had a confirmed case in our school community. Given the number of other local schools reporting cases, the reality is that we are likely to at some point. Wearing face coverings will not prevent this, but we hope that it will reduce the chances that a single case can spread and impact our whole school. We of course have plans in place to address this should it happen and we will ensure any student who needs to isolate is informed and we will be transparent with parents/carers. Any rumours you hear that do not come from us will be just that and should we have a case in school, the work we are doing to keep everyone safe should mean that the vast majority of students are not impacted at all.

I do want to emphasise the importance of letting us know if you have a test result. Where a student has been isolating we need to know that a negative result has been received before they come back to school and if there is a positive result, the sooner we know about it, the quicker we can take the appropriate actions. If this is outside of school hours and you cannot contact the school by phone, please email info@marshacademy.org.uk.

As always, in a time of such uncertainty and I know much anxiety, enjoy your weekend as much as you can despite the turn in the weather and try to keep focusing on the positives.

Take care,
Shaun Simmons

Folkestone Triennial

This week we have been displaying student work and various pieces to provoke thought on our Folkestone Triennial Plinth. Thank you to all who contributed. Some examples below.



Diary Dates

Monday 19th October – Year 10 Assessment Window starts

Thursday 22nd October – last day of Term 1

Monday 9th November – Year 11/13 PPEs start

WEEK NUMBERS TERM 1 2020/2021	
w/c Monday 28 th September	Week A
w/c Monday 5 th October	Week B
w/c Monday 12 th October	Week A
w/c Monday 19 th October	Week B





Test and Trace

23 September 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

This is an important letter to share some information on how we can work together to make sure we can continue to give children and young people the best education in the safest way possible.

One important part of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of pupils, students, parents and our communities is testing for coronavirus. We all have a duty to make sure that the right people have access to get tested at the right time. Every time a test is used inappropriately, a person with Covid-19 symptoms may miss out on getting tested.

Therefore, I ask that you all follow these principles:

- You should only book a test if your child has any of these three coronavirus symptoms:
 1. **a high temperature:** any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature)
 2. **a new continuous cough:** coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
 3. **a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste:** a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal
- Your child **does not need a test** if they have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell but do not have a temperature, cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste because these are not normally symptoms of coronavirus.
- If you are unsure about whether to get a test, please check the official list of symptoms on the NHS website, which is reviewed regularly:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/
- Only the person with symptoms should get a test. You do not need to get a test for anyone else in the household unless they also have any of the three symptoms listed above. All members of the household need to self-isolate whilst waiting for the test result.



- If the person with symptoms' test comes back positive, other members of their household should continue self-isolating for 14 days and **only get a test if they develop coronavirus symptoms.**
- If a pupil or student in a class or bubble tests positive for coronavirus, anyone who is advised to self-isolate **does not require a test unless they subsequently develop symptoms.**

No one else in the same class or bubble as the symptomatic person needs to take any action unless advised by the school or college. Schools and colleges have detailed guidance and access to a Department for Education and Public Health England helpline for advice and support.

Contacts of a person who has tested positive must follow the guidance carefully and in full, which means they must stay at home for 14 days. This is because it can take several days following contact with an infected person before an individual develops symptoms or the virus can be detected. Students should only book a test if they get symptoms.

The NHS has produced some guidance to help parents understand when their child can and cannot attend school which you may find useful: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

It is vital for children and young people's learning and future opportunities that they are able to return to school and college. It is therefore vitally important that all we work together and do our bit to make this possible.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Viv Bennett CBE

Chief Nurse and Director Maternity and
Early Years | Public Health England

Dr Susan Hopkins

Interim Chief Medical Officer |
NHS Test & Trace

Deputy Director | Public Health England

Consultant in Infectious Diseases &
Microbiology
Royal Free, London

