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# ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL



14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent,

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to update you now we have completed our first full week of term.

Over the course of last week, we have had a very small number of pupils (both flexi and boarders) who have shown symptoms that suggested they needed to get tested for COVID-19. This is unsurprising given the similarity between Covid-19 symptoms and other seasonal illness. As and when a pupil presents with symptoms, we are following protocols for testing and, whilst awaiting the test result, the relevant pupil remains at home along with their household. For flexis, the household is the people they live with and for boarders it a case of them isolating with the other boarders in that House.

Isolating a household doesn't mean there is a confirmed case. A symptomatic flexi isolates at home with family members who reside in the same house and a symptomatic boarder isolates with the relevant boarding house for 14 days or until a negative test result is received for the symptomatic person.

As you are aware, we took the decision that flexi-boarders are not permitted to use the boarding house at the moment and, consequently, this means that they do not need to stay away from school whilst a boarding house is being isolated. By making this decision, last week we only needed to isolate boarders; we were not in a situation where flexi-boarders also needed to isolate. As a result of this decision, we have minimised the disruption.

I am pleased to say we have now received two negative results for two boarders and the pupils are back in school, and we are awaiting the third result but do, likewise, expect a negative. Similarly, we know of four negative test results from flexis who are also now attending school again.

We think this term there will be a lot of testing occurrences like this and we will need to test every time a threshold is reached. Therefore, in line with Surrey guidance, we are not in general communicating to all parents every time this happens, but, of course, will communicate with any parents of pupils who need to isolate.

If, at any point there is a positive test result, whether flexi or boarder, we will be working with Public Health England and we will also communicate to all parents so they definitively know.

I am also pleased that all of the isolating pupils last week continued to be able to access school work. We have a new system in place to ensure that we make a smooth transition to remote learning with pupils able to access lessons live, or recorded, via Teams if they are unable to be physically present in the classroom. As a result, I am confident that we have minimised any disruption to learning.

Yours sincerely

Mark Dixon  
Headmaster