

Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College

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Headteacher: Mrs S Chinnappa BSc M.Ed NPQH

9th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

General Update – 9th October 2020

I am cautiously happy to report that we have had 24 hours free of positive tests. I am also delighted to see that a significant number of students are bringing masks into school and are wearing them as instructed during lesson changeover and when queuing in the lunch hall. Thank you to parents/carers who have supported with this. I am requesting that all children bring a mask into school. If your child is unable to wear a mask, please contact your child's tutor to advise if a visor would be acceptable. We really do need to increase our control measures and this would help hugely. I thank you all in advance for continuing to help us with this strategy.

Thank you to parents/carers for supporting engagement in our online learning platform SAM Learning. Where requested and where possible, we have been able to lend some laptops to those without access at home, and I am pleased to report a high level of engagement in the learning available to those who are self-isolating. The YR11 year group have started something of a competition, and it is wonderful to see so many of our students becoming involved. If anyone is having any technical issues with this, please feel free to contact us at school and we will do all that we can to help. Please also see on the front page of our website a document with links to all sorts of free learning activities divided into curriculum areas.

It has come to my attention that there are some instances of false information circulating about the school and Covid-19 on social media, namely local Facebook and Instagram groups not officially supported by the school. I would ask parents/carers to take care with comments that may be posted on these sites. At worst this causes unnecessary worry and confusion and breaks data protection laws where individuals are named. If you are in any way concerned about your own child or have been given information which concerns you and which you suspect to be false, please contact the school and we will discuss your concerns and give you the facts. We are always here to help.

Please can I remind everyone that those who have been told to self-isolate must not be outside of their home, not even in the evenings and at weekends. I understand that this is hard, but Public Health England are very clear that this is a requirement not a request. I am working with my team, quite literally all day every day, in an attempt to keep all of our school community safe, and I cannot do this without support from parents and carers.

Please do not send your child into school if they or anyone else in your household have Covid symptoms. This is one or more of, a continuous cough, a fever or a loss of taste and

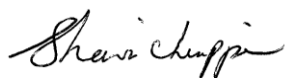
smell. We will send home any child displaying any one of these symptoms, and I would ask that you be supportive if this happens as we are trying to protect all of us here at Samuel Cody and are not in the habit of sending children home without good cause. If your child or someone else in your household develops Covid symptoms, please self-isolate, inform us and get them or the family member tested, letting us know the outcome. Please do not have children tested as a 'precaution' and still send them into school while waiting for a result. If you have been contacted by NHS track and trace and told to isolate, you must do so for 14 days even if you have a test that then comes back negative. Our Covid Risk Assessment is regularly updated and is available on the front page of the school website.

I need to explain why sometimes parents/carers are given late notice for their children to self-isolate. We are dealing with live information and often positive test results come into school late in the day. Any news about a positive result coming into school after 2pm means that a couple of hours often goes by whilst we trace students and staff who will have had direct contact. We then have to inform Public Health England and await a response about action that we must take. Sometimes this has been when the majority of staff have gone home for the day and there are fewer staff in school to help with the phone calls home. We have to call transport as well as reporting it to HCC and a letter has to be written and sent home to all parents updating them of the situation. I am sorry if this has been difficult news to manage late in the day, but we are doing what we can to streamline our procedures.

To help us in our endeavour to manage Covid safely within our environment, we are having the school cleaned over the weekend using an electrostatic spray technique. Electrostatic sprayers work by charging liquids to enable the disinfectant particles to actively seek out surfaces and coat themselves evenly all the way round trapping viruses and bacteria. If we have to, we will be undertaking regular enhanced cleaning regimes such as this to try and provide an even higher layer of safety within school.

Finally, I want to thank those of you who have sent in messages of support to the staff team. They are welcome messages to receive in what has been a difficult week for all of us. I hope that you feel that I have given you access to every bit of information that can allow us all to keep each other safe during this time. I know, from the messages that I have received, that parents/carers will want me to continue to give whatever messages are necessary to protect us all.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs S Chinnappa
Headteacher
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