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Dear Parents and Carers

All parents should now be aware of the introduction of the new NHS COVID-19 app that has just been launched. This is an extremely useful tool to help support Track and Trace and we are advising all parents to download and use the app where possible. There is lots of useful information on the app to support you individually and to help the track and trace process if you were to test positive or if you were identified as a direct contact of someone who has tested positive. This information will help you to recognise if your child is also a contact so you can follow government advice immediately. School will also engage with NHS test and trace alongside the app being used.

The full guidance is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-the-nhs-covid-19-app-in-schools-and-further-education-colleges/use-of-the-nhs-covid-19-app-in-schools-and-further-education-colleges>

The NHS COVID-19 APP <https://covid19.nhs.uk/pdf/introducing-the-app.pdf>

Is available to download for anyone aged 16 or over and is being promoted to staff and parents.

Guidance and further information for pupils and parents

<https://covid19.nhs.uk/>

Here are the main features of the app and the processes to follow in regards to the app and any notifications received by yourselves.

- Trace – alerts the individual if they were in close contact with a confirmed case
- Alert – provides the individual with the risk level associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) in their local area, based on the postcode district they enter
- Check in – allows the individual to check in to locations via the app and official NHS QR codes
- Symptoms – allows the individual to check symptoms against government guidance and to get advice

- Test – allows the individual to order a free test and to receive results and advice via the app
- Isolate – provides an isolation ‘companion’, which counts down how many days they have left to isolate and provides links to useful advice
- Bluetooth must be enabled for the app to work
- If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, the app will ask them to allow others they have been in contact with to be alerted
- The tracing function can be paused
- A reminder can be set to switch the app back on
- The app does not work if the phone is switched off

The use of the app does not replace the procedures which the school follows in the case of being notified of a pupil or family member testing positive for Covid -19. Escalation processes remain the same.

The use of the app does not replace the requirement for social distancing.

Parents and Carers must still report a positive case to the school.

The use of the app is a useful tool to help keep everyone safe and we are advising all parents and carers to download it and use it where possible. Our school Risk assessment and protocols have been updated with this advice and guidance.

Thank you for your support

Pierre Coiffait
Head of School