

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**RE: NHS 111 Online – about Coronavirus**

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I am writing to share that the cough and cold season has begun and our usual response of “catch it, bin it, kill it” continues with a heightened edge, given the anxieties around the spread of Covid-19.

Our expectations regarding attendance remain unchanged:

Students must not attend if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19.

The symptoms are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- **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

We have received a significant increase in the number of calls from parents requesting guidance on whether to send their child in, based on a range of symptoms displayed and not necessarily limited to the above.

We are unable to give medical advice, but do recognise that parents are looking for reassurance that they are doing the right thing.

To help, you might find the following link useful: <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>

It will take you to an NHS webpage where a short online survey around your (or your child's) symptoms will determine the required course of action and signpost you to these next steps.

The link works from your computer or mobile device and the survey takes only minutes to complete.

I am sharing this with all parents and our Academy staff and do please pass this link to friends and relatives as required – we are one community and together we are stronger.

Do please contact us in the usual way if you need to. Remember also that reporting absence must be done using our dedicated absence line by calling 01202 242300.

Stay safe and be well.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burgas  
Principal

**Oak Academy**

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