

Dear Parents and Carers

Some of you may have seen the announcement from the DFE outlined in the article below:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55239588>

Schools and colleges were informed of this decision on an email on Tuesday afternoon at 2.00pm. The DFE are asking school leaders to assist in the track and trace system by 'being on call' for six days following the last day of school. This is so that if there are any confirmed Covid cases we can inform families and direct them to self-isolate. The DFE has given colleges a 'choice' to close schools on Thursday 17th December and provide virtual learning on Friday 18th December. Thus making the six days end on the 23rd December instead of the 24th. This is so that college leaders are not on call on Christmas Eve.

We have decided to keep our last day of term as **Friday 18th December** so that disruption to you, our parents and families, is minimal. Also, we feel that this announcement has been made too close to the end of term to make necessary changes.

This means that leadership will be on call from Friday 18th December. We are not expected to be on call all day but the DFE have suggested that leaders check emails once a day to check if any parents have notified school of any positive test results. Therefore we will check emails up to and including Christmas Eve and we will carry out the necessary calls and paperwork required if needed.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING:

- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should **not** be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

If you need to notify us of a student that has tested positive for coronavirus with symptoms starting less than 48 hours since being in school, please email jennie.l@camphill.ac.uk by 24th December.

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding.

Jennie

Jennie Lewty

Vice Principal – Education & Quality