



KING EDWARD VI NORTHFIELD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Educational excellence for our City

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28th November 2025

Dear Parent / Guardian,

High Absence

We have seen a higher-than-normal level of pupil absence this week. More than one illness seems to be responsible. As we are aware that a local school has taken the decision to close and deep-clean their school, we have sought advice from Public Health (UKHSA) and the Local Authority. They state '*Generally, we wouldn't advise closure in these situations unless schools can't safely remain open due to staffing issues..*' Essentially their advice is that closing our school would have a greater negative impact on the health, safety and well-being of our pupils than remaining open in the current circumstances. Therefore, whilst we will continue to discuss with Public Health as circumstances change, our plan is for the school to remain open as our staff absence remains low. We are in the process of contracting additional cleaning services so that a thorough deep-clean can take place over the weekend. We are also stepping up our cleaning of surfaces and toilets throughout the school day with additional staffing. For the next week we will also be cancelling practical lesson activities in Food Science.

The following guidance for parents has been provided by Public Health:

Respiratory infections

Respiratory symptoms can be caused by several infections including the common cold, COVID-19, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Symptoms may include a runny nose, high temperature, tiredness, a cough and sore throat lasting 3 to 4 days.

If your child has a high temperature and is unwell, it is very important they stay at home and don't attend school or mix with others outside the home, until they have recovered. Children with mild symptoms like a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well can continue to attend school. However, if your child has an underlying medical condition and becomes severely unwell with respiratory symptoms (fever of 38°C or greater with cough, sore throat, runny nose, limb/joint pain or headache), or has problems breathing please, ring your GP or NHS 111 for further advice.

Diarrhoea and vomiting bugs

Stomach bugs are very infectious and easily spread from person to person, but they generally clear up without treatment. Diarrhoea and vomiting is often caused by Norovirus, known as the 'winter sickness bug' – but which can occur throughout the year. Some people may also have symptoms of nausea, abdominal cramps, headache, muscle aches, chills, and fever. Symptoms usually last between 1 and 3 days. The time it takes for the illness to develop is between 12 and 48 hours.

Headteacher: Mr Neil Jones



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If your child has diarrhoea or vomiting symptoms, please keep them off school/nursery. They should not return until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.

The school is taking measures to reduce risk of further infection, including carrying out a thorough clean of the building.

If you need any further advice, or if you are worried about your child, please contact NHS 111 online, your GP, or in an emergency, dial 999. If your child is unwell enough to need medical attention, please do provide a stool sample to help identify the bug causing the illness. You can share this letter with your healthcare provider, so they are aware of the current outbreak.

The attached information leaflet from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) provides some useful information on both illnesses.

For more information on symptoms and management of viral gastro-enteritis please see
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/>

We would also recommend that any children offered the flu vaccine this season should get their vaccine Child flu vaccine - NHS (www.nhs.uk) · any children offered the COVID-19 vaccine this season should get the vaccine About the COVID-19 vaccine - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Further information is also available - Living safely with COVID-19 and other respiratory infections guidance and Respiratory tract infections (RTIs) - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Please check that your child is up to date with all their NHS vaccination schedule.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Jones'.

Mr Neil Jones
Headteacher