

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Dear Parents and Carers

## **MEDICAL ISSUES**

### **Measles**

You will have seen the recent news regarding the rise in cases of measles in London and the large outbreaks in the West Midlands.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has now declared a national incident in order to focus actions to limit the spread. Further outbreaks of measles will spread to other towns and cities unless urgent action is taken to increase Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination uptake in areas at greatest risk. Children who get measles can be very poorly and some will suffer life changing complications.

To support this incident the Department of Education (DfE) has published guidance for parents, carers and schools:

***[What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school](#)***

UKHSA have stated that measles is not currently circulating in the South-East. There are cases in London and a sustained outbreak in the West Midlands (specifically Coventry and Birmingham but now in all local authority areas in the region) but at the moment in the South-East, rashes are more than likely to be for other reasons (particularly in children). However, being prepared is important.

At a national level UKHSA are working on an outbreak pack, similar to the packs for scarlet fever and gastric illness. We will cascade further relevant information when it is published.

### **Diarrhoea and Vomiting**

Over the past week the school has experienced an increase in the number of pupils off school with Diarrhoea and Vomiting (D&V). Whilst this often happens around this time of year it is a timely reminder that we all need to continue to maintain high standards of personal hygiene, such as washing hands after visiting the toilet and before eating. I would be grateful if you would help us by reiterating the need for good hand hygiene to your children. In school we have reinstated the use of sanitisers in the canteen to help reduce the number of cases of D&V in the school.

Further advice on what to do if your child is suffering from D&V is available from the following NHS link:

[Diarrhoea and vomiting - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

A reminder of the key action that your child should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 48 hours.

### Student Services

I would like to remind parents that our Student Services team are not medical professionals and are therefore not able to give medical advice or opinions on whether a student should attend school due to illness or injury.

We have several First Aid trained staff who are qualified to deal with incidents that take place during the day and react accordingly, administering first aid and contacting parents when necessary.

I would therefore ask that parents do not contact or come into school to ask for medical advice, or send their child in to do the same. If you do have any concerns regarding your child's health, please contact your GP, local pharmacy or 111, or in an emergency 999.

Thank you for your support in these matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Quinn', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**