

Dear Parent,

The final preparations for Founders' Day proceed apace. Weather permitting, we hope to enjoy a day which is memorable for all the right reasons.

However, I feel I should communicate to you the following information and advice which we have received from the College's doctor, Matilda Oppenheimer, in the light of the fact that we have had our first confirmed case of swine flu. The pupil is already better and was not seriously unwell. Her guidance is based on advice from the Health Protection Agency.

As there are so many cases of swine flu in the UK - over 7,000 cases have now been confirmed - we are no longer in the containment phase of the pandemic. This means that no preventative treatment is being offered to contacts and swabs are no longer being done to confirm the illness.

Cases are being diagnosed on the basis of the symptoms alone and treated with Tamiflu. When pupils at the College become unwell with a fever greater than 38C and flu-like symptoms, such as a cough, sore throat, runny nose, headache and joint pain, they will be assessed at the health centre and sent home.

If the pupil is registered with the school doctors then a prescription of Tamiflu will be issued for the pupil to take home. If the pupils are registered elsewhere they will be advised to contact their own GP by telephone for a prescription.

***We are advised that there is no need to cancel Founders' Day or close the school, but no pupils with a fever should be back in school this term as we want to reduce the spread as much as possible.***

The only people at risk of becoming seriously unwell with swine flu are those with chronic illnesses and those who are immuno-suppressed. We would advise these people to seek advice if they have had a known contact with swine flu and to think twice about attending Founders' Day.

Those with the symptoms of swine flu should be isolated from others and not travel by public transport until their fever has gone.

Best wishes

Thomas Garnier

*The Health Protection Agency website can be found at <http://www.hpa.org.uk/>*