

**Wednesday 18 March 2026**

Dear parents and carers,

You may have seen coverage in the media relating to cases of Meningococcal Meningitis in the Kent area. I appreciate this may be concerning and would like to reiterate the advice being shared by the government and NHS, so you are aware of the symptoms to look out for, and to reassure you of the measures being taken by OA-Tunbridge Wells.

Meningococcal Meningitis is a serious bacterial infection that can develop rapidly and requires urgent medical attention. While cases in the county remain limited, we are working closely with local health authorities to monitor the situation and follow all recommended guidance to protect students and staff.

**What we are doing:**

- Liaising with public health officials to ensure appropriate response measures are in place
- Increasing cleaning and hygiene procedures across the academy
- Providing information to staff and students about symptoms and prevention

**What you should look out for:**

Early symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Vomiting
- Stiff neck
- Sensitivity to light
- Unusual drowsiness or confusion

In some cases, a rash may also appear. If your child or anyone in your household develops any of these symptoms, seek medical advice immediately by contacting your GP, or calling NHS 111.

Please notify the academy on 01892 519841 if your child, or a member of the household, is experiencing any of the above symptoms.

**Prevention:**

Encourage your child to:

- Wash hands regularly
- Avoid sharing drinks, bottles, or utensils
- Maintain good general hygiene

Please ensure your child's vaccinations are up to date, including the meningococcal vaccine where applicable.

Further information can be found on the NHS and government websites:

- [www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/symptoms](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/symptoms)
- [www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningitis-signs-and-symptoms-poster](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningitis-signs-and-symptoms-poster)

We understand the worry that an outbreak like this can create. Please be reassured that we are taking all necessary precautions and will continue to keep you informed of any updates.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the academy office on 01892 519841.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Machin  
Executive Headteacher