

**Email to Students from Jan Royall following 1st confirmed case of term
02/10/20**

Dear Somervillian,

I am writing to let you know that a member of college has tested positive for COVID-19. The individual in question is now self-isolating within their household according to college regulations and all of our procedures for protecting the health of the individual in question and the safety of those around them are operating as planned.

We will, of course, be monitoring the situation closely and will keep you informed of any developments. In the meantime, I would like to reassure you that we will be supporting this individual and anyone else affected with all the care and attention you would expect of our college. I firmly believe that the only way we will get through this epidemic is together and that, as a small collegiate institution, one of the great advantages we have is that we all know each other, and we really can look out for each other.

As before, can I please remind you that no further action is required on your part unless you are contacted by Public Health England as part of the Track and Trace process. If you are contacted by PHE, then do please follow their instructions as rapidly and proactively as possible, bearing in mind that all information given to PHE is confidential and will not be disclosed to the University.

This is also a timely reminder of our responsibility to each other. To achieve our goal of continuing our studies and research, as well doing some real good in the world, we need to maintain the bonds of trust. We need to trust that each of us is working for the collective good of college, against the common adversary posed by the virus. To that end, can I please ask you to respond to this news as responsibly as possible, both in your interactions with each other and with people outside college. If you are contacted by the media, please respect the safety and needs of those affected by passing on the enquiry to our Comms department (communications@some.ox.ac.uk) so we can present a united front.

Of course, trust goes both ways and is always earned. To that end I wanted to let you know that today's email will be followed by a weekly email detailing the current status of college relating to COVID-19, including the number of people self-isolating and the number of people who have tested positive. Total transparency will be essential this term, and this is a first step towards that.

Finally, can I please remind you that good hand hygiene, use of a mask and social distancing are not just gimmicks - these strategies help us protect each other and, in time, will help us beat the virus once and for all.

Do contact me if you have any concerns - I mean that.

Best wishes

Jan