



EPSOM

COLLEGE

From the Headmaster

STEPHEN R BORTHWICK, BSc CPhys FRSA

24 October 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am writing to inform you that a pupil from Epsom College has been admitted to hospital with probable meningococcal meningitis/septicaemia. Our medical advisors have asked us to inform you that there is no reason to make any change to your usual routine as a result of this.

Meningococcal bacteria are carried in the back of the throat of about one in ten people but only very rarely cause illness. Most people who carry the bacteria have a natural resistance to them. The bacteria do not spread easily and those who have had prolonged, close contact with the person are at a slightly greater risk of getting ill. These people have been identified and given antibiotics to stop the bacteria spreading.

Although the risk of another case in the school is very small, it is sensible to be aware of the early signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease. These are: high temperature, nausea or vomiting, rash, neck stiffness, dislike of bright lights, drowsiness or confusion and joint pains. The early signs can be like bad 'flu' but be watchful and use your instincts. **If someone becomes ill with some of these signs or symptoms seek medical help rapidly.**

Further information is available from:

The Meningitis Research Foundation, www.meningitis.org, 0808 800 3344 (24hr Helpline)

The National Meningitis Trust, www.meningitis-trust.org, 0800 028 1828 (24hr Support Line)

If you have individual concerns about this case, you can speak to a member of the Surrey Sussex Health Protection Unit on 0845 894 2944 during normal working hours.

Yours sincerely

S R Borthwick
Headmaster