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Dear Parents/Guardians

We have a student in Lower School who has a confirmed case of mumps and we feel that you should be made aware. The following extract is from the NHS website and may be of some help.

Mumps is a contagious viral infection that used to be common in children **before** the introduction of the MMR vaccine. It's most recognisable by the painful swellings at the side of the face under the ears (the parotid glands), giving a person with mumps a distinctive "hamster face" appearance. Other symptoms of mumps include headaches, joint pain and a high temperature, which may develop a few days before the swelling of the parotid glands.

When to see your GP: It's important to contact your GP if you suspect mumps so a diagnosis can be made. While mumps isn't usually serious, the condition has similar symptoms to more serious types of infection, such as glandular fever and tonsillitis.

Your GP can usually make a diagnosis after seeing and feeling the swelling, looking at the position of the tonsils in the mouth and checking the person's temperature to see if it's higher than normal. Let your GP know in advance if you're coming to the surgery, so they can take any necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection. If your GP suspects mumps, they should notify your local health protection unit (HPU). The HPU will arrange for a sample of saliva to be tested to confirm or rule out the diagnosis.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Lower School Office.

Kind regards

Mrs H J Taylor
Head of Lower School