

BUDDYING GUIDELINES

The buddy system is intended to allow a peer to peer support for those in isolation. In all cases, keep any visit brief. The buddy should not put themselves at risk by stopping for a conversation when dropping off essential supplies - e.g. library books, medicines, care package from home – or post. Each isolating individual should work with a very small number of buddies, ideally one or two. We recommend that each household in isolation should nominate up to three people who will act as their buddies. Where possible, it is better to reduce the number of visits per day as much as possible, preferably to no more than two per day per household. Grouping deliveries to a household is better than each individual receiving separate visits. This reduces footfall in the area of an isolating household and thus reduces risk for that household, the buddies and the rest of the College community.

Buddies may leave things at the door of isolators who are quarantining or awaiting test results. Where there has been a positive test, buddies should not go beyond the threshold of the household. The definition of the threshold as follows:

1. **Hostels:** The front door.
2. **Cripps Court:** The staircase landing door leading into the corridor where student rooms are inside that door.
3. **Ann's Court:** The top of the flight of stairs leading to the rooms - there is a lot of space on the landings that allows this to be done safely.
4. **Old Court:** In this area the need to support isolating students must be carefully balanced with risks derived from the layout of the staircases. We wish to permit very brief visits whilst not creating a risk that the buddy carries infection back into their own household. Where the buddy is visiting a household where no-one has tested positive, in Old Court ground floor households or those that comprise ground and first floor, we define the threshold as the main door into the staircase. A text or call can alert the isolator to come to collect things. For upper floors where they are not part of a household with ground floor members, the threshold becomes the first landing reached by the buddy which is part of the relevant household. The buddy should go up the stairs and leave the delivery on the landing, exiting quickly once the delivery is made. If they pass through a household that is isolating to get there, they should take extra care, as well as wearing a mask, to sanitise hands thoroughly before and after entering, avoid touching doors, handles or bannisters, and keep the number of visits to a minimum.
5. **In all areas** when *a buddy is leaving something for someone in a household where someone has tested positive*, the delivery should be left at the threshold, as defined above; if it is for a person with a positive test, the buddy and recipient should alert a household member to the delivery, and that person can then take things from the threshold to the door of the student who has tested positive. This is consistent with the fact that household members where there is a positive case are allowed to exit their room to use the gyp facilities in their area. The buddy should take extra care, as well as wearing a mask, to sanitise hands thoroughly before and after entering, try to avoid touching doors, handles or bannisters, and keep the number of visits to a minimum.