



SJB/JRu

10 November 2020

Headteacher: **Stephen Brady** BSc(Hons)

Dear Parent/Carer

Well this has certainly been a strange week and it is only Tuesday! I think it is important to give you an update as to our current position after the flurry of letters that were sent over the weekend and yesterday. So here are the facts as of today:

- We currently have some staff members, as you know, who have tested positive. Anyone who was deemed to be a close contact, according to Public Health England (PHE) guidance, has been contacted and these students are now isolating, as are any members of staff.
- As you also know, the impact that this has had on our staffing has led us to take the decision to move Y10 and Y11 to online learning. Your daughter/son may have noticed that there have been a few supply staff taking classes, this has also been factored in to this decision as we cannot continue to do this on a larger scale as although the supply staff are skilled and good teachers, they cannot replicate the culture of our learning as well as our own staff do.
- The affected staff members are not in the same department and like everyone here, they have been adhering to all the guidance. To further reassure you, as a school, we continue to invest heavily on cleaning and there continues to be round the clock cleaning in all areas in the school.
- Students have access to washing and hand sanitizer and you will be aware that we have now implemented a face mask rule for the whole school in line with DfE guidance. Please ensure that face masks are being washed at home in line with good hygiene practice.

In discussion with PHE, it seems we have been incredibly unlucky that these cases have come at the same time and we cannot trace them back to a common action or situation. During these discussions with PHE we have been reassured by them that all our systems are robust and in line with their procedures. I must thank you all for your ongoing support during this very strange time and also for your patience whilst we re-establish all our online lessons over the course of the day.

All students isolating, or at home, have been asked if they need a Chromebook to access their online lessons and these are being distributed today. Lessons will be online with teachers leading them. Please get in touch if there are any issues with these. Hopefully, over the next 2 weeks we will see the return to some sort of normality and we can push on through the rest of the term.

It is a strange time and whilst you may have concerns, please rest assured that the safety of all our students and staff members remain at the forefront of any decision we make. It is a horrible virus and we have a responsibility to take the situation seriously. We are very thankful that the members of staff that have tested positive only have mild symptoms and are ok.

Lastly, please could I re-emphasise that any child who was told to isolate must not leave the house and we must continue to adhere to all guidance. Y10 and 11 students learning at home, but not isolating should still adhere to the national guidance during lockdown.

Thank you again for your continued support. We have been blown away by how you have worked with us through this period. It means so much to us as we make changes to ensure we can still be learning together as well as staying safe. I will not look at a snow day with the same fear every again!

Yours sincerely

Stephen Brady

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