



23 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Unfortunately Covid-19 is continuing to affect our students and our staff. We currently have steeply rising Covid cases among staff, doubling overnight, and among students. We are not the only school in this situation, and consequently it is becoming very difficult for us to secure supply staff to cover lessons effectively.

We are continuing to do everything we can to make sure the school is not affected by these high absences and that high quality teaching and learning continues. Staff, who are not able to come into school because of Covid, are delivering lessons via Teams if they are well enough to do so. Staff in school have continued to give up their non-contact or preparation and planning time to cover lessons, and some staff have come in on their days off to help. We are still using hand sanitiser for students, ventilating areas and staff and students can wear masks.

As school leaders, we need to plan for worst case scenarios, so we are considering what we might have to do if the rate of infection continues to rise. For example, with 10 teachers off, that is approximately 300 students without their normal teacher each lesson, and 60 lessons to be covered each day. Student safeguarding is an absolute priority, and we need to take this into account, as well as ensuring we provide an excellent education.

With that in mind, we are letting you know that it is a real possibility that if case numbers among staff continue to rise, we may have to close the school temporarily for some year groups and ask these students to access lessons via Teams or Satchel One from home. We wanted to let you know in advance what our plan would be, as if we did have to do this, we would only be able to give you very short notice, we are currently in discussion with the Local Authority regarding the situation.

I would like to stress that we are, and will continue to do everything we can to avoid this scenario: It is only if infection rates in school rise and thus staff absence rises further that we will have to quickly put this plan in to action.

We are asking that parents be extra vigilant about any potential symptoms that your child has at this time. If they have any symptoms – a cough, temperature or a change in sense of taste or smell, they should be kept off school, and a Lateral Flow test done to confirm they are negative before returning to school.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards

Mr Albon
Headteacher

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