



## **GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY**

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4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Year Parent/Carer

We have now had 12 positive cases in school (9 children and 3 staff) which is a real concern to me, and, I'm sure, to you. Of particular concern is that all of our cases are either within Year 11, or directly linked to the Year 11 bubble.

Consequently, having sought advice from the Local Health Protection Team, and our Trust, I have made the decision to close our Year 11 bubble for the next two weeks for the following reasons:

- The potential health risk to Year 11 students of contact with Covid-19 and the apparent cycle of infection.
- The potential health risk to Year 11 staff of Covid-19.
- Two weeks with children learning from home and advised to isolate (which they did not necessarily do over the half term holiday) and with a National Lockdown in place would have a chance of breaking the apparent cycle.
- The uncertainty of educational provision due to a constant flux of self-isolating students resulting in, no matter how hard we try and how good our remote learning is, a difficult situation with classes where a proportion are in school while others are educated remotely.
- Two weeks of *all* students learning remotely will allow for a more consistent provision for all in the lead up to mock exams at the end of the month.
- Therefore, Year 11 children must not be on site until Thursday 19/11/20, and should access their work online via the Synergy link following their usual daily school timetable. A timetable of live lessons will be available by the end of this week. If children have technology difficulties, please contact Mrs Crow to discuss.

As we are entering a National Lockdown situation, children should follow the National Restrictions, not least because the closing of this bubble is to try to break a cycle of infection within the bubble:

1. Stay at home, except for specific purposes.
2. Avoid meeting people you do not live with, except for specific purposes.

I realise that this may be inconvenient to you, for which I apologise, but I haven't made this decision lightly, and wouldn't have made the decision at all if I didn't think it would have a beneficial long term impact.

Many thanks as always for your support, and please continue to keep in contact with us if there are developments we need to be aware of such as safeguarding concerns and individual Covid-19 updates.

My very best wishes

**Mr Ashcroft**