



GUISELEY SCHOOL

14 December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

You will be aware from various correspondence that we have had a recent spike in students who attend the school testing positive for Coronavirus. In total we have had 16 cases reported to us in the in the last seven days taking our total cases to 49 for the term.

Whilst these numbers are concerning, we are also aware that they are not at all exceptional and should be viewed in context. Our discussions with Public Health England this weekend confirmed that the rates we are seeing reflect those being seen throughout our region and nationally where secondary school students have the highest infection rates. Our case numbers do not meet the threshold for the kind of extra-ordinary action that has been seen in schools in other parts of the country.

We also know from the contact tracing work and our discussions with Public Health England that many of the transmissions for our students are community and home based, but of course we have to trace across an infectious period, which means the children have inevitably been in school prior to the onset of symptoms.

Whilst schools are limited in the level of response they can take and must work within the DfE's contingency framework which can be viewed using the link at the bottom of this letter, there is action that we have taken and further action we will take in immediate response to the current case numbers.

Early closure

The DfE do **not** allow schools to close early for the Christmas break. They have allowed schools to designate Friday 18 December as a training day. We will be taking this option and designating Friday 18 December as a training day.

We had wished to avoid losing learning time and I apologise to parents for the short notice but believe this to be in the best interest of our community. I also apologise to those students who were due to return on 18 December from periods of self-isolation. We look forward to seeing them back at school on 4 January.

The last day of term will now be Thursday 17 December and our normal half day arrangements will apply. A confirmation letter of the times and phased exit for students will be sent through to all parents.

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Headteacher: Mr Paul Clayton



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Deep Cleaning

As you are already aware, Year 9 will be working from home Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 December. This will allow deep cleaning and chemical fogging of Year 9 classrooms and communal areas. We will be extending this work to deep clean all areas of the school by extending our evening cleaning schedule.

Reinforcing the Public Health message

Given the number of community transmissions, it would be timely to ask parents to reinforce with students the regulations around the Tier 3 restrictions. Please could you discuss these with your child and encourage them to comply with the regulations:

- Tier 3 and Tier 2 prevent gatherings of more than six people in public
- When in a public space within a group of 6 or less, practice social distancing
- Try to walk home from school in groups that are as small as possible
- **Always** wear face coverings on public transport

We will be writing to you at the beginning of January to outline any changes to our processes and key messages before the new term begins.

I trust you will have a safe and enjoyable Christmas break and I thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Paul Clayton
Headteacher

DfE Contingency framework for Education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-contingency-framework-for-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings-excluding-universities>