

18th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As the term moves forward, we are continuing to make school as "normal" as we can for the students, staff and families. However, the school has managed further positive cases of Covid19 in recent days, resulting in the decision to isolate two classes in year 9. Thankfully, all the positive cases are fit and well and we thank parents for letting us know in good time to then complete the necessary tracing procedures. If you have not received a letter, or been told directly by our pastoral team, then your child has not been in close contact and can therefore continue to attend school as normal. This is clearly an "ever-changing" situation, so we will update you as regularly as we can.

Whilst the numbers of positive cases grow slowly, we have been speaking to the Public Health Team at Lancashire County Council at each stage. They monitor our decisions and challenge rigour of our tracing. We are confident that this is one reason why we have been able to keep the school running safely and securely for 90%+ of all children. Alongside this, the measures we take in school, the students' behaviour in following the expectations and the relationship with parents all play significant roles.

Where we have sent home an entire class, live, online learning is happening. Where individuals are isolating, we have online resources available immediately. With their teachers still teaching, there is an inevitable 24hr delay in "new" material, but this allows an excellent chance to revisit the previous work, improve and seek feedback. We have spoken to parents this week and will send out more information around our blended learning approach this week. In the meantime, I have attached the list showing how each subject is blending their provision, allowing students to broadly follow their timetable each day they are at home.

This is a difficult time for everyone. In many ways, much harder than the initial lockdown periods as many students are being expected to motivate themselves whilst parents are continuing to work. I can only reiterate our point that despite the different experiences across the school, these are mirrored across the country as a whole. Whilst Lancashire is a place hit badly by Covid19, we have always managed academic progress with mental wellbeing to ensure our students succeed personally. We were one of Lancashire's best schools before Covid19 for this reason and despite the uncertainty, will continue to be afterwards. As a community, we need to get through the next few months and the reported prospect of getting the virus under control is something positive we are all hanging on to!

Thanks again for your support.



Ray Baker
Headteacher

The process for identifying contacts remains the same:

A "contact" is defined as:

- a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre) with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), including:
 - being coughed on, or
 - having a face-to-face conversation, or
 - having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
 - any contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) for more than 15 minutes
- a person who has travelled in a small vehicle *with* someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or in a large vehicle *near* someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- people who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)