

2nd October, 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus update 27

Welcome to another weekly update; I trust you and your family are well in these challenging times.

I need to advise you that we have had a further four positive cases at school this week, the last of which has resulted in a number of students needing to self-isolate. There is, therefore, an additional Coronavirus update for all Year 10 parents and carers (numbered “Coronavirus update 27a”) – so if you have a son in Year 10, please take careful note of its contents. Please do hold the students and staff affected by this week’s test results in your thoughts and prayers.

Attendance this week has been running at over 92%, which is somewhat above the national average; I’m very grateful for every student’s continuing attendance and the parental commitment that underpins it. However, please remember that there are circumstances when students should not be in school, but should be self-isolating.

- Any student with one of the Coronavirus symptoms (a new, continuous cough; a high temperature; or a loss or change of taste or smell) should self-isolate at home.
- **Any student from a family where one member has symptoms should also self-isolate.** This means that sometimes, a mother’s temperature will mean her son cannot attend school, for instance.

I’m happy to be able to advise that we should be in a position to offer hot meals again from Monday. A temporary team of caterers will be joining us for a few days, and whilst we won’t be in a position to offer a full menu straightaway, we hope that there will be something for everyone who would like a hot meal. Our resident catering team will be back onsite from Wednesday 14th.

Dr Manwaring has asked me to advise you that through Teams, we are starting to provide online access to live lessons in the classroom for students who are self-isolating at home (although at present we are only at the early stages of piloting this facility). If, for any reason, you would rather not have a Science lesson (for example) ‘broadcast’ into your home, please let us know.

Finally, many local churches will be having virtual harvest festivals at this time of year. Harvest reminds us that God is faithful, and that He is good. As the Psalmist puts it, “*God is [...] an ever-present help*”. So “*therefore we will not fear*”! In these uncertain times, it’s important that we share our hope with those around us – which I would encourage you to do if your son or daughter is at all anxious about the current situation.

With my best wishes for a peaceful weekend,

Yours faithfully

Stephen Brierley
Principal.