

12th January, 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus Update 41

I am taking the liberty of writing to you mid-week because of the increasingly concerning rise in Coronavirus infections in our City.

As you know, at present school is open for students who are classified as being ‘vulnerable’, and for students whose parents are key workers.

Since last Tuesday, we have had many more students attending school than in our first lockdown – around 70 per day this time, compared to under 5 vulnerable and key workers’ children in March, and under 30 in July.

Because we are now delivering live lessons, students onsite are expected to work in our ICT rooms (where we typically have up to 20 students studying at any one time). Most teachers are delivering lessons and are therefore unavailable to supervise students onsite. These factors are adding to the pressures we are currently experiencing as we keep our school partially open.

If your son or daughter is fortunate enough to qualify for a place in school, I would ask you please to think carefully about whether he needs to come in full-time, or indeed at all. Of course, I do not want to deter anyone from coming onsite where there is an unavoidable need (perhaps due to mental health concerns); and we are not (yet) in a position where we will have to turn anyone away. But in line with recent Government communications about this matter¹, and the attached letter from City Council leaders, I would urge all parents to consider whether, at least in the short-term, their son or daughter could work at home for more days each week than s/he is currently doing.

Thank you for your continuing support in these unprecedented times.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Brierley', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Stephen Brierley
Principal.

¹ “Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can” – quoted from [this document](#).