

Friday, 13 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus

As you are aware, we have had considerable staff absence this week as a result of the need to self-isolate and sickness. I am sorry that we had to close to Year 9 but I am grateful for the understanding shown by parents and carers in this situation. I can confirm that Year 9 will be back in school from Monday November 16th. Fortunately, as a result of staff beginning to return and staff freed up because of Year 11 exams, I do not need to ask any other year group to stay at home next week. I hope that this situation does not repeat itself but in these times we sadly cannot guarantee that.

On Wednesday I was in a virtual meeting with the Lancashire Director of Public Health, the Director of Children's Services and other Secondary Heads looking at the current impact of Coronavirus on schools. As a school, despite the disruption we have faced, we have been far more fortunate and less disrupted than many but we know that could change. Messages that cannot be repeated often enough from Public Health are that:

- if a child is displaying symptoms, they must not come into school and must isolate at home until they have a test and it is negative and they no longer have a fever
- If a child is living in a household where someone has symptoms, they should self-isolate until the symptomatic person has had a test and it is negative
- If the child is a close contact of a positive case they must self-isolate for 14 days from last contact
- If a child tests positive they should self-isolate for 10 days
- Where someone has to self-isolate they should follow all the rules around that and not be going out, even though that is difficult. We all have a responsibility to ensure we follow the rules to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Year 11

Next week Year 11 have mock exams in core subjects and these are really important in allowing staff to see just where our students are up in their learning. Also, while the Department for Education has repeatedly said that exams will go ahead next summer, starting 3 weeks later, this week we saw Wales abandon GCSE exams next summer following Scotland's decision a few weeks ago. In reality we just do not know yet what might develop regarding next summer and as we have said to Year 11 repeatedly, mock exams will be really important evidence if we need teacher assessment in any way.

Yesterday should have been Parents Evening for Year 11. More detailed reports will be available on progress of Year 11 in the next couple of days and be emailed to parents/carers. Members of SLT and the Year 11 team will be contacting some parents for conversations about progress and next steps over the next few days.

Synergy

Parents in Years 8 and 9 should now have received their log in details for Synergy. We will send the information out to parents of Years 10 and 11 next week.

Flu Jabs

We have been notified by NHS that flu jabs will be administered to Year 7 on December 14th.

Mobile phones

If I could just repeat what I wrote in my letter last week. Our amended policy is that if a mobile phone is confiscated it will be kept in school until Friday afternoon and then returned to the students. Students have been made aware of this and we have seen a reduction in the number of phones confiscated over the past week.

Remembrance Day

This week we have had Remembrance Day assemblies and our Head Boy and Head Girl walked down to Kirkham War Memorial on Wednesday to lay the school wreath.

With best wishes

Andrew Waller
Headteacher