

**Headteacher: Mr Ben Riggott**

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Dear parents, carers and students

I hope that you and those around you are well. I am writing to update you on the current situation and provide you with some information about the school's plans over the next few months. We know that the number of cases of COVID-19 is rising nationally and in the Chesterfield area. As such, it is likely that we will find ourselves in a position where students are learning at home, at times. This could be because they need to self-isolate, or because members of staff are required to self-isolate, making it impossible for us to accommodate all students in all year groups at the same time.

We are currently able to accommodate all students and year groups in school. However, there is every possibility that this could change quickly. As such, please ensure that the school has your current contact details (mobile phone number and email address). This will be particularly important if your child needs to come home during a school day.

As I write to you today, we have had two confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the staff group, and no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the student population. The first colleague who tested positive was not in school at the time that they would have been infectious. The second was only in school during our INSET day last Friday, so did not come into contact with any students, and observed our safety measures whilst in school, reducing the risk of transmission to other staff. As a precaution, two staff members who worked with this colleague last Friday are self-isolating, in line with government guidance.

The safety measures in school are working well in limiting potential contact between groups, keeping hygiene levels high and prioritising the safety of students and staff. Students and staff have been fantastic in the way they have adapted to different ways of learning and working, and parents and carers have been hugely supportive. Thank you. We have used some time during the last half term to ensure that all students can log on to Show My Homework, as this will be the main resource for remote learning if it is needed. Should your child be learning from home, our system will operate as follows:

1. Learning will follow the normal school timetable of five lessons per day, based on show my homework. Your child should complete the activities set for each day.
2. Teachers will design learning sequences bespoke to the needs of the students at that time.
3. Learning activities will come in a range of formats, aimed at keeping students engaged and learning. Activities will either directly follow or be closely linked to the planned curriculum for each subject for your child, so that students can quickly re-engage upon their return to school.
4. Students will be required to submit completed work through Show My Homework for their teachers to use to assess learning and plan next steps in teaching.

5. There will be opportunities for interaction between teachers and students, for example through some 'live' teaching in some subjects, amongst other formats as mentioned above.

As a parent of two secondary-aged boys during the last lockdown, I know the importance of continuing with learning and structure when school is closed. I ask that if your child is required to learn from home for any period of time, that you support them in continuing their learning and completing their activities to the best of their ability. The more effectively we are able to do this together, the less impact any enforced absence from school will have on their learning and general wellbeing.

We have been working with students to help them understand how to learn effectively at home, should they need to do so. We will continue with this over the coming weeks.

Thank you once again for your support throughout the pandemic and particularly over the last half term. As a school community we showed great strength and resilience in adapting and working together to make sure that the full return in September was a success. Whilst it will no doubt be a challenging time, I am confident that these qualities will enable us to continue to support each other throughout this next period.

Take care, and best wishes

Ben Riggott

Headteacher