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Dear Year 7 Parents/Carers,

Further to my letter yesterday, I am writing to update you concerning the two cases of Covid-19 in Year 7.

Both cases have been confirmed with a positive PCR test. There are a very high number of close contacts and the circumstances suggest that further spread of the virus within school is possible. **Therefore, I have made the decision that Year 7 should study from home next week, returning to school on Monday 5th July 2021.**

This is a precautionary measure. It will also enable us to switch to full remote teaching rather than just set work for the majority at home, without any taught content. Overall, I believe this to be in the best interests of the students.

Isolation

If your child has been identified as a close contact, they must isolate as per the instructions in the letter I sent yesterday. The government advice is that you should also book a PCR test for your child. This test will alert us to whether the virus has spread further. A negative result does not allow the individual to stop isolating, however.

If your child is not a close contact, they do not need to isolate.

If your child develops symptoms, please inform us and book a PCR test. It is not advised that they take an LFD test in this instance as they are not designed for testing symptomatic individuals.

Please continue to do the LFD tests each Sunday and Thursday evening and report positive results to us.

Please note that those who have tested positive for Covid-19 with a PCR test should not take LFD tests for 90 days after confirmation. This is because they still pick up traces of the virus and can give a false-positive result.

Remote learning

All students are asked to check Show My Homework and Teams each morning before 9am. Attendance at live lessons and completion of the work is obligatory.

Return to school

Children may return to school on Monday 5th July as long as they are well.



Why is the school being so cautious?

This new Delta variant of Covid-19 is more infectious than previous variants. We know that once it takes hold in a school it spreads very rapidly. Many local schools have seen numerous cases in one year group which has resulted in a cycle of contact tracing and isolation. We would rather take decisive and immediate action to stop further spread, therefore causing less disruption to education in the longer term.

When will my child take the school assessments they have missed?

We will arrange for all missed assessments to be taken in class when students have returned to school.

In summary:

- Do not send Year 7 children to school until Monday 5th July.
- Follow any advice for your child to self-isolate.
- Close contacts should book a PCR test.
- Continue to carry out the lateral flow device tests each Sunday and Thursday and notify us if positive.
- Let your child know that they should check Teams and SMHW each morning.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Evans

Headteacher