

17 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**RE: Covid Update and Polite Request**

I am writing to update on the situation at Bexhill Academy regarding the few positive cases that we have identified over the last two weeks. Unfortunately, there have been false rumours that have exaggerated the number of cases and caused extreme undue anxiety.

Given the size of our Academy, the five student cases across three Year group bubbles in Year 7, 8 and 9 are minimal. We also identified four cases amongst our support staff at the weekend and have taken immediate action to isolate the staff and student bubble. We take urgent action to isolate all close contacts and send students home to isolate if there has been a contact risk. Public Health England have praised our quick, efficient responses and the procedures currently in place to keep students and staff safe. **We review these daily as risk assessments necessitate.**

Following every case for both students and staff, our procedures get checked and reviewed immediately by both the Department for Education and Public Health England. Our internal controls and safety measures have already been reviewed by the Health and Safety Executive this term and we are doing all we can to keep risks at a minimal in these challenging times. We accept that these are difficult days but we are legally expected to keep education open for students and we will continue to do our best to maintain a safe environment.

Only if staffing were to become untenable due to Covid absences and it is a challenge to meet the learning needs of students in the building safely, would we then take immediate action to close Year groups. This is not the case and unless we have asked students to self-isolate, they should be at school. We continue to welcome all Year Groups for direct teaching in school. However, if this situation changes, I will update you and take the necessary action.

**Can I remind parents that if your child is unwell or if there are any symptoms in the family, you must keep your children at home and seek a Covid test. If any member of your family are awaiting the results of a Covid test, you must keep your children at home until the result of the test.**

Finally, I understand that we are all anxious and concerned in these times but when making contact with staff at school I ask you to speak respectfully. Unfortunately there have been a few instances where parents have become rude and abusive to staff and this is unacceptable. Please remember to treat each other kindly in these difficult times as we each don't know what others are coping with. Also, it is not helpful to 'speculate' and spread false information through hearsay on Facebook or other social media platforms. Please be responsible and contact the appropriate channels for **factual information**.

Yours faithfully



Catherine Davies  
Executive Principal