

27 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Covid and Learning Update

Further to my communication last week, I am giving you notice of necessary **safety and operational amendments to expectations of student attendance for the coming week.**

Following our **risk assessment today**, and the fact that cases are escalating out in the community, **we are expanding the number of students who will be home learning next week.**

In addition to the planned home learning rota **for next week both Year 8 and Year 7 will be home learning on Google Classroom.** The reason for this decision to have **Year 7 home learning next week is due to the recent cases identified within this Year group. It has now reached a threshold of concern. In order to protect this Year 7 bubble, following the recent cases, we are now taking the above action to reduce risks.**

As you are aware from the national news reports, **the Rother District has now become one of the areas with the highest escalation of cases in the county**, as identified on www.eastsussex.gov.uk. This has impacted the smooth running of the Academy and we have struggled to operate with a third of the staff out. This has an inevitable impact on the delivery of learning. These are exceptional times.

Last week we undertook an urgent deep clean but with cases high in our community and coming into school, we have taken this decisive action. As a county, we are being placed in Tier Two for higher and rapidly spreading infections, such are the government concerns for our area.

Following our urgent safety actions taken last week, we are now able to make the necessary provision for all key workers and vulnerable students in the Year groups isolating and on home learning. If you fit the identified categories of either:

Critical key workers such as those working in Health and social care, food, education, key public services or

Vulnerable children (EHCP, Plans, LAC, Adopted etc.)

If you meet the above criteria please inform us immediately and we will plan for these additional students to be engaged in their home learning activities while in school. Please contact: jennie.phillips@bexhillacademy.org if you require your son or daughter to attend one of our year 7 or 8 key worker bubbles.

Week beginning Monday 30th November:

- **Year 7 at home on Google Classroom**
- **Year 8 at home on Google Classroom**
- Year 9 in school as normal
- Year 10 in school as normal
- Year 11 in school as normal

We believe that these reasonable adjustments and measures will ensure that learning continues for all students but minimises the risk of transmission of the Covid virus that is currently so high in the Rother community. This action has not been taken lightly but these measures and our timely action will provide opportunities for our parents and carers to plan child supervision at home if necessary.

We will review these plans and I will be in contact with you if circumstances change. Thank you for your support and understanding as we work together to keep everyone safe.

Urgent Reminder: if your child is unwell at all you must keep them at home and notify us immediately.

Also, if any close contact or member of your household has Covid symptoms and/or awaiting a Covid test result please do not send your child into the Academy.

It is your legal responsibility to ensure that any adult or child who tests positive remains at home for the safety of others.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine RA Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Catherine Davies
Executive Principal