

24th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Year Group Safety Closure for Y7 and Y9

Further to my communication last week in the Friday Update, I am giving you notice of necessary **safety and operational amendments to expectations of student attendance for the coming week**. We have over 140 students currently off with Covid related absence and 15 members of staff today. **Therefore, it is not viable to run the Academy safely with numbers of cases rising and the serious safety and leaning disruption to students.** As a final option, and after detailed discussions with both Public Health England and the Local Authority, we have made a risk assessment of each Year group.

Following our **risk assessment today**, and the fact that cases are escalating out and within the community, **we are moving Y7 and Y9 students to home learning for the remainder of this week from today.**

The recent cases identified within these Year groups have now reached a threshold of concern. In order to operate the Academy safely and to minimise disruption, we are now taking the above action to reduce risks.

As you are aware from the national news reports, **the cases have escalated significantly in the South East**. This has impacted the smooth running of the Academy over the last two weeks and we have struggled to operate with a significant proportion of the staff out and no available external cover. This has an inevitable impact on the delivery of learning. These are exceptional times and I apologise for the disruption and inconvenience caused to households.

If your child is deemed vulnerable (EHCP, Plans, LAC, Adopted etc.) and you wish us to provide childcare provision for those students 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 support. Critical key workers working in the public health industry and uniformed services also contact the above if support is required.

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 community. This action will ensure the safety of the remaining students in Years 8, 10 and 11 who will remain attending the Academy for face to face learning. 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. **Therefore, Years 7 and 9 only will be learning from home for the remainder of this week on Google classroom.** If you have any difficulty accessing the website materials, please email your child's tutor.

Sincerely



Catherine Davies
Executive Principal
MA, MBA, BA (Hons), NPQH