

Lowton Church of England High School



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25 June 2021

Dear parents and carers

Weekly letter.

Plans for next year: We have finalised our recruitment for the next year and so are now in a position to finalise our curriculum and staffing plans. Until the last few appointments were sorted it was not possible to confirm arrangements. We will be in a position next week to confirm options for Year 9 students moving into Year 10 from September.

Webinars: We will be holding two webinars in the near future to explain arrangements for next year.

- For parents and students in the **current Y10** (moving into Y11 next year) it will be Monday 12th July at 5.00 pm
Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p-wqKpeJQXqBrWNjaTnktA
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
- For parents and students in the **current Y9** (moving into Y10 next year) it will be Monday 12th July at 5.45 pm
Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_x_IPSFUdSr-jZvtlWo5eAQ
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening: This will take place on Thursday 8/07/2021 from 3.30 pm – 6.30 pm. Bookings will be open from Monday 28/06/2021 at 9.00 am using the booking system: <https://lowtonchurchofengland.schoolcloud.co.uk>
Bookings will close at 9.00 am on Thursday 8/7/21.

Update on the need to isolate: Thank you for your continued understanding as we have, once again, had positive cases and at short notice had to send some groups of students home where they are a 'close contact'. If this happens you will always be contacted first and receive a letter confirming the isolation period and the return to school date. All letters are also placed on the school website.

On the upside, our collective efforts to complete lateral flow tests on Sundays and Wednesdays is helping to identify asymptomatic cases that means we are quickly isolating any positive cases. The contact tracing we then undertake as a leadership team is done immediately and we aim, where necessary, to send students home to isolate within one hour of a positive case being reported to school.

We look at seating plans in lessons and form time, cameras in canteens at breaks, gather information about travel to and from school and ensure we talk to students and teachers to keep the isolation number to a minimum whilst ensuring we follow Public Health criteria for those who are deemed to be a close contact. The three main criteria that account for the vast majority of those we identify as close contacts are:

- Within one metre for at least one minute.
- Within two metres for more than fifteen minutes.
- Skin on skin contact (including hugging, holding hands and 'messaging around' together).

The vast majority of you have been very supportive of the approach we have taken and the speed at which we operate in these situations. If you have any questions regarding it please approach staff respectfully as we will always do our best to explain our reasoning. Please avoid putting messages on social media where you are not happy regarding isolation decisions. We do not do it lightly – in fact we would rather not have to do it all, but we do it for everyone's safety.

Like you, I long for the day when we do not need to and the pandemic is behind us, but until such time as the Public Health guidance changes we will do our part in following it. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours faithfully,
Kieran Larkin
Headteacher

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING

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