

Monday 7th December 2020

Dear all Year 9 parents and carers

Positive COVID-19 case affecting Year 9.

As you are aware we contacted you over the weekend as a result of positive COVID-19 case affecting Year 9 and asked you to keep your child at home today.

This is a precautionary measure in line with advice from Public Health England and the Local Authority. It does not mean your child has COVID-19.

Unfortunately, all Year 9 pupils will be required to *self-isolate until the end of Tuesday 15th December*. All Year 9s should return to school on **Wednesday 16th December**.

During this period, they must stay at home and not meet up with anyone outside your household.

I know the vast majority of you have been observing these rules in full – thank you.

Sadly, a small number of students and parents have not been observing these rules. This has had, and will continue to have, a very significant impact on our school operation and the national effort to beat the virus. I urge you to please follow the rules fully.

We are acutely aware that, Year 9 has been heavily affected this term as a result of positive COVID-19 cases. Although the number of cases has been quite small, the impact can feel disproportionate.

I hope you will understand that this is not a decision we have taken lightly and we are doing all we can to continue teaching your child through our remote learning model. There will be a full suite of recorded lessons on Satchel-One for Year 9 from Tuesday 8th December. Your child should follow their normal school timetable to access these lessons.

There are four elements to our Year 9 remote learning model:

- **Recorded lessons on Satchel-One.** These allow students to work through a well-structured lesson at a pace that works for the student, pause it, go back over it and complete tasks set by the teacher. They can revisit these lessons any time and use them for revision.
- **Daily live Form Time** via MS Teams with their Form Tutor starting from tomorrow – Tuesday 8th December – at 12.20 pm.
- **Slots for small group live feedback** with a subject specialist teacher to follow up on the recorded lesson and provide some more personal support.
- **Written feedback** on your child's work submitted through Satchel-One.

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING

To be clear on what you need to do as parents:

- Your child must immediately self-isolate and not mix with other people outside your household.
- They do not need to get tested unless they develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- If your child develops symptoms you should ring 119 to arrange a test immediately.
- As parents, you (or siblings) do not need to self-isolate unless you or your child develops symptoms.

What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

If your child becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, a high temperature or has a loss of, or change in their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), please follow government guidance and book a test. Please inform the school if your child tests positive. You can email us via

testresult@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk.

Please do not wait until reception opens to contact us.

What happens if my child accesses free school meals?

School will provide vouchers if your child is entitled to free school meals. We will send out information to you where relevant.

Thank you for your understanding and support. Please contact the school if you think there is any more we can do to help you and your child. Your first point of contact should be your child's form tutor.

Please do all you can to keep you and your child safe and well.

Yours faithfully

Kieran Larkin
Headteacher