



Wednesday 18th November 2020

Dear all Year 11 parents and carers

Positive COVID-19 case affecting Year 11.

As you are aware we sent your child home earlier today due to a positive COVID-19 case affecting Year 11. 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, in line with the advice and guidance we have been given, Year 11 pupils are required to immediately *self-isolate until the end of Monday 30th November*. Year 11s will return to school on **Tuesday 1st 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 pupils 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 doing some further contact tracing to see if it is possible to have a small number of Year 11 pupils in school. If this applies to your child, we will be in touch with you in the next two days.

We are acutely aware that, as a minimum, Year 11s will have missed four weeks face-to-face teaching this term and some have missed more because of non-school related illness or other self-isolation. 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.

Teachers are putting some holding work on Satchel-One today. There will be a full suite of recorded lessons on Satchel-One for all Year 11 pupils from 8.30 am tomorrow - Thursday.

There are four elements to our Year 11 remote learning model:

- **Recorded lessons on Satchel-One.** These allow pupils to work through a well-structured lesson at a pace that works for the pupil, pause it, go back over it and complete tasks set by the teacher. Pupils can revisit these lessons any time and use them for revision.
- **Daily live Form Time** via MS Teams with their Form Tutor starting **tomorrow - Thursday - 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. This will be in place **from Monday 23rd November**.
- **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.

GCSE examinations in summer 2021.

We fully appreciate the short notice of this and how disruptive this is for your child and family.

I hope you understand that we are acting as quickly as we are able in these uncertain times.

I am making representation through the appropriate political and professional routes locally, regionally and nationally to express our worries and concerns regarding the impact of the pandemic on Year 11 pupils in this important GCSE examination year.

The Government's position is that the examinations are going ahead as planned, albeit they have been pushed back by three weeks to start later than usual.

However, there are significant regional differences across the country and the North West and Wigan has been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

My deepest concern is that not all pupils nationally will be examined on a level playing field if there are no further adjustments to the approach to examinations next summer.

In the context of the Government's current position, we will continue to do all we can to prepare your child for their examinations next summer and continue to communicate our shared concerns through the appropriate channels so that the current proposed national model is reconsidered.

Thank you for your understanding and support and please contact the school if you think there is any more we can do to help you and your child.

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

Yours faithfully

Kieran Larkin
Headteacher