

Headteacher update - 11

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start by saying thank all those parents/carers who have taken the time to send us messages of support during what we can only describe as a very challenging week. We started the week with unprecedented numbers of staff absent from school which led us to take the decision to switch Year 9 students to remote learning and remain at home.

As you will know we have seen an increase in positive COVID-19 cases this week, to date we have a total of 6 isolated cases in our student body and 4 members of staff since the start of the year. To reassure you this is lower than many other schools and notably we do not believe that there has been any transmission within our student body, it is important to be clear that there is not an outbreak within the school.

With every case we review our procedure to see if there are further measures that we can take to reduce the number of staff or students that need to self-isolate as a precaution. You will have received information earlier today regarding our decision ask student to come to school and remain in their PE kit on days that they have a PE lesson. The reason for this is that it avoids students mixing in the changing rooms and thus reduces potential close contacts which result in students needing to self-isolate as a precautionary measure. If for any reason your child cannot come to school in PE kit, please send them in normal school uniform, we will be as flexible as possible to accommodate individual situations.

We have been planning ahead for next week, we still have significant numbers of staff self-isolating and therefore we are in a similar position to this week where we cannot cover all lessons. Regrettably and with a heavy heart we need to inform you that we need a year group to remain at home next week. In order to minimise the impact on one year group, we have decided that:

- **Year 10 will remain at home and access remote learning on Monday 23, Tuesday 24, Wednesday 25 November**
- **Year 8 will remain at home and access remote learning on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 November**

We understand that this will cause a level of disruption for families and apologies for this, it is not a decision we have taken lightly.

Thankfully, the following week barring any further cases we expect to get back to as near to 'normal' operation as possible and expect for all year groups to be in school.

To summarise for next week arrangements are as follows:

Year group	Students in school	Students remote learning	Remote learning for students not in school
Year 7	All in school all week <i>Except</i> 7R2	7R2 remote learning - return 01/12/20	TEAMS live lessons
Year 8	All in school Mon/Tues/Wed 23/11-25/11	All Remote learning Thurs & Fri 26/11-27/11	Work set via email
Year 9	All in School all week		
Year 10	Students in School Thurs & Fri 26/11-27/11	All Remote learning Mon/Tue /Wed 23/11-25/11	Work set via email

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Year 11	No students in school 23/11-27/11	All remote learning return 30th November	TEAMS live Lessons
Year 12	All in School all week 23/11-27/11		
Year 13	All in School all week 23/11-27/11		

As you will be aware OFSTED visited us just before half term as part of their national programme of finding out how schools are dealing with COVID-19. During their visit they do not make any judgements about the school, they were however very complementary about our arrangements during this period. They have published a note of their visit which can be found [here](#)

Barnwell Community Clothing and Food Bank

We are very pleased to say that we officially launched our Barnwell Community Clothing and Food Bank this week. For the last couple of years, we have run a food bank, this has only been possible due to the generosity of Barnwell staff and the wider community who make weekly contributions, during lockdown Sainsburys also provided support with food donations. We have now added clothing to our bank and are launching it more widely. In these unprecedented times if you feel you could do with some support in the form of a contribution from our Community clothing and food bank then please do not hesitate to email us in confidence at communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk. Equally if you are able to support with the donation of food or clothing please let us know.

Children In Need

We are delighted to report that our whole school charity event last Friday for Children in Need has raised **£502.60p** for this worthwhile cause. Thank you for your support. Our next whole school charity event will be Christmas jumper day on the 11th December, details to follow.

Reporting COVID cases

During the term, it is essential that we as a school are notified of any students that test positive for COVID-19 or have to self-isolate as they have been in close contact to a confirmed case.

If your child tests positive for coronavirus at any point, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and need to self-isolate. During school hours, you should phone the school, and out of school hours, it is necessary to email communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk.

Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test.

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

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If you are not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please do not send children back to school if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of COVID-19
- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at half-term activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they have not completed the full 14-day isolation period requested

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

As ever, could we please ask you and your families to do their part in ensuring our community remains safe and our school continues to operate fully. Please follow Government guidelines and reinforce school expectations at home

REMINDER: COVID-19 Webpage

If you have any queries about COVID-19 and Barnwell School, please visit our designated COVID-19 webpage. This page has information regarding our COVID-19 procedures as well as our [school contingency plans](#), information guides and all previous parent/carers communication. <https://www.barnwellschool.co.uk/covid-19-info-2/>

Remote Learning

A reminder that all home learning tasks for students who are self-isolating and not accessing live lessons via TEAMS can be found on our remote learning tab on the School Website. Students should go to their year group, subject and Autumn Term 2 to access their tasks and this can be found at [this link](#). Please bear with us if you have experienced any teething problems with the live lessons and do please email the teacher to let them know, who can email any missed work directly to your child. As with all things new, sometimes the technology or processes do not always work as we would hope but we are continually working to ensure that everything is running as smoothly as possible.

REMINDER: Face Mask update

Face masks are now required by the government for all staff and students when in indoor social areas and travelling between lessons in our buildings. To further enhance our COVID safe environment, when teachers or teaching assistants move outside their 2m teaching zone, we will insist that students must put their masks on/up for this short period of time.

Please can you ensure your child has two face masks with them at all times, in case one breaks. We would advise students to wear reusable face masks and that they are washed on a daily basis.

Whilst we would never deny a student the issuing of a mask, there are too many children arriving without them and we cannot continue to bear the extra costs. Continued failure to comply with this request will result in students being issued a concern, and if the situation continues we may need to charge. We are seriously hoping we can avoid this.

REMINDER: Parent/Carer meetings

As we have been advised to reduce the number of visitors coming into school, we would remind you that from Thursday 5th November meetings are held using Microsoft Teams, Zoom or conducted via a phone call.

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REMINDER: Communications

Could we please remind parents and carers that due to the current structure of the school day and increased duties, on occasion, staff will not be able to return communication within the school day. A reminder of the school communication protocols set up last year can be found by clicking [this link](#).

If you would like clarification regarding any school matters, please do not hesitate to get in contact via communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

Thank you once again for your support and have a lovely weekend.

Mr Fitzpatrick
Executive Headteacher

Mr Roberts
Head of School