



Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Weekly Update

This week started with the news that we had our first confirmed case in the school. While this always felt like an inevitability, it was, of course, an unwelcome development and resulted in a group of 41 Year 10 students and 4 staff being required to self-isolate until Thursday 8th October. I am heartened by the sensible response from students, parents and staff. Student conduct and engagement with our safety protocols at school has remained highly impressive.

General Mask Usage

Students will now be asked to wear masks while in the PE changing rooms. Given the situation locally, we now recommend that students use their masks during lesson change while in corridors. If you have any concerns about mask use by your child then please contact their Year Leader.

Year 10 Students in Self-Isolation

Following our track and trace process a number of Year 10 students were required to self-isolate. I am grateful that all families affected have engaged with us positively and I thank you for your support. Teachers have been setting work each day via Microsoft Teams and there have been live welfare meetings each day. We have trialled using Teams to allow students at home to access elements of the lessons taking place in classrooms in real time and the approach looks promising. As interruptions seem likely to recur, on Wednesday Lucy Fyfe (Assistant Headteacher) will send out a survey to all affected families for feedback on the experience of working at home. Maintaining provision for students in school and supporting students working at home is a significant challenge for us – I believe that our teachers have done a brilliant job under pressure.

Changes to the Sixth Form

Having had the experience of completing a track and trace process in Year 10, I am now conscious that we must separate Years 12 and 13 into independent bubbles. This will require some temporary changes to the day-to-day experience of our senior students. These changes have been explained to the students and I have already written to Year 12 and 13 parents with further details.

Start of the Day for Year 9

From Monday all Year 9 students should report directly to their form rooms at the start of the day.

HPV Injection Catch-up

Any students who missed the HPV injection will have the opportunity for a catch-up this coming December.





October is Black History Month. I am grateful that our student leaders in the Sixth Form, working with colleagues and students drawn from many year groups, are leading this year's events. Diversity at The Emmbrook will be a key focus for the year in general and next half-term in particular. I am excited to see this work start to impact on the school over the coming weeks.

Best wishes,

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