



Dear all RGS parents,

This has been without doubt been a very challenging week for the school, and I wanted to take a minute to update you on the latest state of play.

As I announced early in the week, last weekend we unfortunately had our first case of Covid-19 amongst the community and, as the week has progressed, numbers have risen. As I write, we now have two confirmed cases in Y9, five in Y11 and three Senior School staff members, making a total of ten confirmed cases in our community. I am pleased to say that, whilst all have experienced varying degrees of symptoms, all are currently recovering.

This increase in cases is clearly disappointing. In response to this and in consultation with the local Health Protection Team, we have been working hard to identify the close contacts of the affected students, and we have written to those parents notifying them that their child must self-isolate. This will hopefully help to keep under control the possibility of further cases.

Given the number of cases currently in Y11, earlier this evening we took the decision to ask the whole of Y11 to stay at home to protect not only the students within that bubble but also the wider community. We would obviously much rather have avoided this course of action but hope that parents will support the measure as a precaution against further spread. Y11 students will be accessing lessons remotely through Teams with their teachers working from school.

In the absence of further cases we anticipate that all Y11 students will be able to return to school on Tuesday 6th October, which allows for an isolation period of two weeks, from when the student most recently confirmed with Covid-19, was in school and in contact with their peers.

We are working incredibly hard at school to minimise the numbers of students who may have to isolate in the event of a case, and I would be grateful if you could reinforce at home that your son/daughter has a role to play in helping this effort. We have robust procedures in school for keeping year group bubbles separate and, within these bubbles, we have sought to standardise seating arrangements and have other processes to reduce the number of close contact between students. However, all of these efforts are undermined if students do not maintain social distancing outside of lessons. I would be grateful if you could talk at home about how each student can play their part in reducing both the possibility of transmission and the numbers who may need to self-isolate, for the benefit of our whole community.

On a positive note, it has been wonderful to see the way that teachers and students have been successfully establishing new routines that allow our wonderful learning activity to continue, whilst also allowing students self-isolating at home, to join in these lessons. In all of this we want to ensure that we look after the wellbeing of all children so please do let us know if you have any concerns. In the meantime, thank you again for your support and messages of goodwill, as well as your cooperation as we navigate this new way of life.

I wish you all well for the weekend.

Yours faithfully

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