

19th October 2020

Dear Year 10 Parent

I write to provide an update following the positive case of Covid in Year 10 and I am pleased to inform you that **some** Year 10 students will be allowed to return to school tomorrow.

If your child has been identified as a close contact, they must remain at home and continue to self-isolate for 14 days in line with the instructions previously given. Students affected by this have been contacted directly or will be contacted before the end of the day. All other Year 10 students may return to school tomorrow, provided that they are not displaying any symptoms.

We believe this to be safe because the infected student was only in school on one of the infectious days and our track and trace has determined that the student mixed with a relatively small number of people during that day.

I apologise that we were not able to finalise this decision over the weekend. We began our own track and trace over the weekend but this was incomplete until this morning. In addition we were, despite more than one attempt, unable to access any advice from the public health authorities to confirm the safety of the decision. This is as frustrating for us as it is for you as parents but is indicative of the high levels of infection across the North West.

At this difficult time for everyone, however, I must ask that any frustrations are expressed in line with our parental code of conduct and our normal complaints policy. I have attached a copy of the parental code of conduct to this letter. Specifically, ill-informed comments on social media are at best unhelpful and at worst offensive, especially to those staff and students who are either self-isolating or ill with the virus. We certainly do not want children out of school and believe that a “safety first” approach will ultimately prevent us from having to close down whole sections of the school or even the whole school, as has happened elsewhere.

On another note, I want to make you aware that most of the positive cases we have had in school so far have not displayed the “typical” Covid symptoms, but have presented with what appear to be heavy colds. Our usual approach to attendance is to send your child in even if they are feeling “under the weather”, but I would urge you not to do this in the midst of the current pandemic. It is always better to be safe than sorry.

Keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely

MRS J GARRETTS
Headteacher