

12th October 2020

Dear Year 7 Parent

I write to provide an update following the positive case of Covid in Year 7 and I am pleased to inform you that **some** Year 7 students will be allowed to return to school tomorrow.

If your child is in 7JK, they must remain at home and continue to self-isolate for 14 days as indicated in the previous letter. In addition, a number of students were contacted on Saturday and were informed that they have been identified as close contacts of the infected student. **These students must also continue to self-isolate in line with the instructions previously given, as should those students who were already self-isolating following close contact with the recent Year 8 cases.**

All other Year 7 students may return to school tomorrow, provided that they are not displaying any symptoms.

I want to reassure you that we believe this to be safe because Year 7 have been taught in forms AND they have been allocated the outside kiosk for food at lunchtimes. This means that they are able to queue up for lunch in an outside area, unlike other year groups, making it much less likely that they will have come into contact with the infected student if they are not in that student's form.

I apologise that we were not able to finalise this decision over the weekend. We carried out our own track and trace over the weekend but, despite more than one attempt, we were 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.

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