



21 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Since the new lockdown, we have operated a 'mini' school on site in support of students who are designated as 'vulnerable' and whose parents are critical workers, unable to work from home. In the first week, numbers remained reasonably low, albeit much higher than the first lockdown in March 2020. At that time, the school typically looked after between 16-22 students each day. In the week beginning 4 January, student numbers on site were at 39.

We are now in week three of lockdown, and numbers have grown to 68. In week one we had 15 x Year 7 students in school, we now have 37. In week one we had 9 x Year 9 students; we now have 17. This presents the school with a problem. How do I manage increasing numbers whilst balancing the health and safety of staff and students in the building? Outbreaks in local schools are rising and the new strain of the virus has yet to take a full grip in the city. Furthermore, hospital cases continue to rise, as do deaths. In short, we are in the peak of the pandemic. Therefore, I will request the following action:

- A parent, who is designated as a critical worker must provide the school with proof, from their employer, that they are unable to work from home and they require a place at school for their child/ren.

This is a reasonable request, in keeping with many other schools, and will allow me to continue to ensure staff and students are safe on site. Please consider, an increase in student numbers, increases the risk of infection being transmitted. It means that I will require more staff in school, increasing risk to them and to students in school. It also has the additional impact on teachers being unable to teach remotely if they are required on site. I have to keep numbers on site down.

I want to support students' learning the best way I can, but I will put all families' and staff's health and safety first. **Consequently, if you require a place for your child/ren on the basis that you are a critical worker, I will require proof from your employer about your working arrangements from Monday, 1 February.** Failure to supply adequate proof of need, will likely mean your child will not be offered a place on site. Please ensure your evidence of need is sent to your child's respective year group Pastoral Officer, as soon as possible.

Finally, when the school is open normally, parents' cars are not permitted on site unless it is an emergency. Unfortunately, the number of cars on site recently has created a further health and safety issue. Please refrain from entering the school gates when dropping off your child on a morning, or when collecting them on an evening.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



Matthew West  
Principal

