

13th October 2020

Re: Contingency Plans for Further Restrictions

Dear Parent/Carers

Thank you for your support so far this year with helping your child to settle back into school. As you will appreciate we **might** have a positive Covid case in school at any time and we need to be prepared to take swift action if and when this occurs to keep everybody safe, and ensure continuity of learning for students.

In the event of a Government local lockdown

The Government has informed us that should we go into a local lockdown there will be a tiered response. In all levels of the tiered response all staff and students will be required to wear a face covering in all communal areas of the school. Please ensure you are prepared for this, and have adequate face coverings for your child/children.

In Tier 2 we will move to a rota model, and students will be in school for face to face learning for 2 weeks, then spend 2 weeks learning at home. We will divide the school into Group A and Group B for this. Group A will be students in Years 7, 9 and 11. Group B will be students in Years 8, 10 and Post 16. The school will be deep cleaned between Groups attending.

In Tier 3 we will be directed by the Government which year groups to remain open for, and all other year groups will learn at home. In Tier 4 we will be closed to all year groups.

Throughout a local lockdown, regardless of the tier we are in, we will remain open to children of critical workers, and vulnerable students as far as possible. If you are a critical worker <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision> and need a place for your child in school as you do not have any other childcare option, please contact office@dstc.kent.sch.uk.

Planning for a full or partial school closure

In the event of a positive Covid case, we may need to close the school to some or all year groups with immediate effect. We will always take direction from Public Health England on this. We may need to dismiss student's part way through the day so that they can self-isolate, and we need to ask your permission to do so. To be clear, if we are informed that a student has tested positive for Covid, we will need to take immediate action.

We will assume you are happy, after a message has been sent to you, for your child to be dismissed from school to make their own way home, unless you respond to this letter by 8am on Friday 16th October 2020. Government guidance states that students are permitted to make their way home on foot or via public transport but must wear face coverings in these circumstances. Therefore, it is important that all students carry a face covering (in a plastic bag) with them during the school day with immediate effect.

If you do not agree to your child being dismissed, please email office@dstc.kent.sch.uk, with 'Dismissed' in the subject line, to inform us who will be collecting your child should the need arise. You need to be aware that all students must be off the school site within an hour of the notification being sent to parents and carers.

While we will make every effort to ensure we can keep the school fully open to all students, there may also be a situation where we do not have enough adults in the school to safely supervise the students. If this is the case, then we may have to ask some year groups to work at home temporarily. We will first ask Post 16 students, then Year 10, then Year 8 to work at home. If this occurs we may have a very limited capacity for some students from those year groups to remain in school and work in a computer room. We will contact you if we have capacity for your child.


Virtual learning

In the event that any student is at home due to illness, self-isolation or school closure, they should refer to Google Classroom for their work. Teachers are routinely uploading both lesson resources and homework to Google Classroom and students should take responsibility for checking this whenever they are unable to attend school. If whole classes are not in school, then teachers may be able to conduct some live lessons via Google Meet.

If your child does not know how to log in to Google Classroom they should either ask their Computing teacher if they are in Year 7, 8 or 9, or Form Tutor if they are in Year 10, 11 or Post 16.

Mr Allen will be collecting information from you regarding your child's access to technology at home. If you have any particular concerns about this please contact him.

Kind regards



Mrs A Davis
Principal