

19th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your on-going support at this very challenging time. This week we have experienced a steady increase in the number of cases both in the local area and at Brittons Academy. This has particularly affected Year 8 and, as a result, large numbers of students are self-isolating due to being identified as being in close contact with someone who has tested positive. **In order to protect the students who are still in school and the staff, I have made the decision to close the bubble and for all Year 8 students to work from home from tomorrow and return on Monday 30th November.**

This is not a decision I have taken lightly and we have consulted with Public Health England, Havering Local Authority and the Empower Learning Trust before doing so. All stakeholders are in full agreement that this is the best course of action to minimise any further risk to the students, their families and our staff at this time.

Those entitled to Free School Meals during the isolation period will be able to access a food parcel to cover the period they have been asked to stay at home. Please contact Ms. Pearson via pearsons@brittons.havering.sch.uk to arrange collection from school, if this is something you would like to access.

Does my son/daughter have to self-isolate during this period? What about the rest of the family?

Only students who have been sent home to isolate as having been identified as a close contact of a positive case need to self-isolate. Other members of the household can continue normal activities provided no one starts displaying symptoms.

What if my child tests positive?

If your son/daughter tests positive for COVID-19 then please phone the school on 01708-630002 (Monday-Friday 7-30 a.m. to 4-00 p.m.) and 07912-379506 (at all other times including weekends). The guidance from the NHS remains that children and adults should only get a test if they begin to develop symptoms, namely a high temperature, a new or persistent cough or a loss of taste and smell. Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>.

How will work be provided?

We are currently transitioning from Go4Schools to Microsoft Teams. Work will be uploaded to Go4Schools and some staff will run lessons via Teams. Your son/daughter has login details for both. If there are any issues, please contact the Year 8 pastoral team.

Please note the large number of students being identified as close contacts is not an indication of a huge number of positive cases; rather it reflects an effective track and trace system being employed and a determination from us as a school to reduce risk where possible.

On behalf of my staff and I, thank you again for your on-going support. Take care.

Yours sincerely,



MR. W. THOMPSON

Principal