

Friday, 13 November 2020

Year 11 2-Week Remote Learning Programme

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, regrettably, we have had a confirmed case of Covid-19 in the Year 11 bubble. We have decided to send all of Year 11 home to engage in the Remote Learning programme. Since sending students home earlier today, we have been in contact with the DFE and have conducted our track and trace procedure to identify close contacts of the positive case. These students must self-isolate under the DFE national guidance. A separate letter has been sent to those affected.

This decision has not been taken lightly. We have taken this decision due to an increase in the number of confirmed positive cases in this Year group together with the ability to staff lessons across the timetable adequately with our own staff.

If your child is already self-isolating, they will have a date which confirms the end of the isolation period.

Year 11 mock exams were due to start from Monday 16th November. We have decided that it would be in the student's best interests to defer the start of the mock exams to Monday 30th November.

Therefore, all Year 11 students must return to school from Monday 30th November. The exams will continue until Wednesday 9th December. Please note that the school will be closed for a staff PD day on Monday 7th December.

One advantage to this is that, our Year 11 students will have additional time to revise for the mock exams and all students will now be taught remotely together in their class groups allowing for a subject expert to deliver lessons. Students are able to access work set using Microsoft Teams as well as communicate with their teachers.

We are aware of a small number of students who may not have access to a device at home and we have a small contingency available, which we will prioritise for Year 11 students who are eligible according to the DFE criteria.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are following government guidance.

This year continues to be very challenging for staff, families and for schools. COVID-19 has meant disruption to student's education and significant changes to how we are running the school. Staff and students continue to do exceptionally well in adapting to the changes.

The school remains open for all other year groups and providing your children in other year groups remain well they can continue to attend school as normal. We will keep this under review.

Please look out for symptoms of COVID-19 in your child whilst they are isolating (a high temperature, a new persistent cough or loss of, or change to, sense of taste or smell). If they develop any of these symptoms please inform the school and keep your child home. We rely on parents contacting us to let us know of any cases of Covid-19 so we can act quickly. If your child does develop symptoms, we would strongly advise you to get a test as soon as they are symptomatic. Tests are available online from <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school at contactus@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk or by calling the school on 0208 422 4675.

A number of schools are currently dealing with positive Covid-19 cases; I understand that the situation may cause some anxiety. Therefore, it is very important that we continue to work together as partners – your child's Head of Year and the team of form tutors are there to help in any way they can.

Please remember to look at our website to see information on our dedicated Covid-19 page. ([Covid-19 page on website.](#))

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

Hands

- Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds.

Face

- Cover your face in enclosed spaces, especially where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- It is now compulsory to wear cloth face coverings on public transport, shops and several other indoor settings.

Space

- Stay 2 metres apart where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place.
- Keep your distance from people who are outside your household or support bubble.
- Limit social gatherings (including abiding by the 'rule of 6') and avoid crowded places.

Further Information

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

If anyone does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further Information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

We are grateful to all the parents who are supporting the school in following our protocols including the wearing of face coverings which are compulsory for all staff and students in communal areas. Students will be permitted to wear these also in class and remove to speak as required. Please ensure that your child has a mask to wear and a plastic bag to carry it in should they wish to remove it (e.g. when eating).

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Manderson
Headteacher