



September 30th 2020

Dear Year 11 Parents & Carers,

We are really pleased with the start Year 11 have made to this academic year. Staff have been planning carefully to ensure students will be well prepared for GCSEs. As you are probably aware, we have had to send two entire year group bubbles home already this term after two separate, single cases. On a positive note, it appears at this stage that the measures we have in place in school have prevented any of those cases becoming an outbreak. This has given us the confidence to consider how we might reduce the need to send an entire year group home in the event of a new case.

I am writing to ask for your support with a **Year 11 “Bubble Reduction” pilot**.

We would like to work with our Year 11 students to identify close contacts on a daily basis. This would mean that in the event of a case, only those students who have been in close contact would need to self-isolate, in line with Government Guidance.

Close contact is defined as:

- Spending more than 15 minutes within 2 metres
- Spending more than 1 minute within 1 metre, having face to face contact.

To achieve this, we will be asking students to use their planner as a **close contact diary**. Every morning, during period 1, students will be asked to write down the names of students with whom they have had close contact before school or after school the previous day. They will then be asked to do this again after their Brunch break, to capture details of students they have had close contact with during that 30 minutes.

We are working hard with students to ensure that they move around the building and queue for Brunch in single file as part of our risk management strategy. The brief contact that happens when students pass on corridors or when lining up for the canteen is considered low risk and will not be counted as close contact. Please note, all staff and students are now wearing face coverings in spaces outside of classrooms, other than those with specific exemptions for health reasons.

In the event of a confirmed case, we would work with that student to identify any close contacts from before school, Brunch and after school over the 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms. We will then use our class seating plans to identify close contacts in lessons. This would mean **we only then have to ask those students who have been in close contact to self-isolate for the necessary period** (usually 14 days from the onset of symptoms / critical contact date). Students should not be mixing with others outside of school while we are in the current Birmingham lockdown restrictions: if a student is confirmed positive and has had close contact with other students, we would expect to be notified so this can also be managed as part of our school contact tracing.

I hope you will agree that this will be a really positive approach if we can enlist the support and buy-in of all of our students. Your help with this would be greatly appreciated – please do discuss with your child and reinforce with them the importance of limiting close contacts so that together we reduce the risk of virus transmission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns about the proposed approach.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher