



Beauchamps High School

Business and Enterprise
Centre of Excellence for Learning



18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know, the last nine months, and in particular the last few weeks, have been incredibly challenging for our whole school community. Unfortunately, despite no children being in school, we are still being informed of a number of students, and of some staff that have been working from home, that have had positive Covid 19 test results. Therefore, I would please encourage you to have your children tested for Covid 19, as many of the positive cases that we are continuing to be informed of are asymptomatic. There are now a number of test sites in the Basildon district, and you can also order a postal test, as I explained in my recent communications.

Can I also please remind you that all secondary schools in our district have been asked by the Local Authority to make **Monday 4th January a remote learning day** for all students in all year groups. This will enable us to ascertain the Covid situation and to make the relevant plans for re-opening the following day. I will of course be writing to you as soon as possible on Monday 4th January to inform you of the position.

You may have seen in the news over the last 24 hours the government's very late announcement that secondary schools should be staggering the return to school for students in different year groups when we return from the Christmas holidays. I am sure you are as disappointed as I am with the late notice of this announcement, which gives us little time to plan, and indeed for you and other families to plan childcare etc. Therefore, it is my intention not to take this approach. Our school has already been closed to students for too long these past two weeks, we always want our students in school. Should it be unavoidable, the only reason we will have some year groups not in school from Tuesday 5th January, is because of staff absence due to self-isolation.

As equally disappointing, is the very late notice regarding the mass testing programme in secondary schools. The logistical planning required for this is substantial, and the Local Authority have promised all head teachers that we will have a countywide approach to this. The extra staffing required alone is a considerable issue to overcome. I will of course let you know the details of our plan for roll out of this mass testing in school as soon as I have them.

On a positive note, feedback from students and staff regarding our fully interactive lessons has again been very positive this week. The majority of students have fully engaged in the lessons we have delivered. The statistics are really pleasing, for example, in the last 5 teaching days there have been over 4000 individual messages between students and staff and over 1400 online meetings. Well done to all the students on their engagement and hard work. The students should now have a well-deserved rest over the festive holiday.

As this is my last communication of 2020, I would like again to thank you for your amazing support this year, in what has been a most challenging year. Our Beauchamps community is second to none! I wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy and heathy 2021.

Yours faithfully

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