

07 October 2021

## **Important information to Parents/Carers of Year 8 students during Outbreak**

Dear Parents/Carers,

As mentioned earlier in the week we have seen a significant rise in the number of positive COVID-19 cases within the school setting.

We regret to inform you we are no longer able to fully staff the curriculum. We are routinely having one sixth or more of our teaching staff away from school on a day to day basis, and so many schools locally are in this situation, that the supply teaching agencies are unable to provide supply teachers when needed.

As a consequence, we have no alternative but to take one of our year groups online to learn from home, so that we can ensure they are being given high quality provision in all of their lessons. It obviously makes most sense to select the year group in which infection rates are currently rising at the fastest rate, as there will already be a significant number of students in that year group self-isolating at home, and this arrangement will allow them to participate in their lessons online if they are well enough.

On Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 October, all year 8 students are asked to stay at home and log on to Microsoft Teams to participate in their lessons, following their normal timetable. We will review teacher absence and infection rates during the school day on Monday, with the hope of bringing year 8 back into school on Wednesday.

Can we also please remind everyone of the important of regular LFD testing, which can be done on a daily basis in groups where infection levels are high. Children will generally know if there are 3 or more students in their tutor group who are self-isolating with COVID. This is regarded as a high level of infection, and a signal for daily testing. It is important to note that if a child is unwell but their LFD test is negative, **they should still be kept at home**. There are a number of infections in addition to COVID circulating in our community, and it is vital that we all do what we can to prevent their spread.

### **Children Identified as Contacts:**

If you are notified by NHS test and Trace or Public Health that your child is a contact of a case of COVID-19 please access a PCR test for your child as soon as possible and carefully follow the guidance on [how to stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19](#).

### **Children who are symptomatic:**

If your child has symptoms of Covid-19 please continue to keep your child at home and book a PCR test as soon as possible.

[Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

If you are concerned that you may have symptoms of COVID-19, or you live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19, follow the [Stay at Home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19](#).

**Head Teacher Dave Hadley-Pryce BSc MSc FRSA**

The Bewdley School, Stourport Road, Bewdley, Worcestershire, DY12 1BL

Telephone: 01299 403277

Email: [office@bewdley.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@bewdley.worcs.sch.uk) - Web: [www.bewdley.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.bewdley.worcs.sch.uk)

## Reducing the spread of COVID-19:

There are still simple things we can all continue do to reduce the risk of spreading the virus:

- 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

## Face Masks

As several cases have been confirmed, we strongly suggest your child wears a face mask in communal areas of the school when they return. For example; moving along corridors to lessons.

There continues to be additional support for those self-isolating or vulnerable as a result of COVID-19 can be accessed through Here2Help:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help> or 01905 768053 then press option 3. The Here2Help opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm.

Yours sincerely,



**Dave Hadley-Pryce**  
**Head Teacher**