



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
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Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

10 December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your families are well.

As we come towards the end of term two, I wanted to thank you for the support you have given across this term. Despite all the challenges that we all continue to face, the positivity, resilience and focus of the students has been superb. This is down to the support students receive at home, alongside the teaching and pastoral support they receive in school. Our staff have worked superbly in challenging circumstances, and I am grateful for their efforts and expertise in an unparalleled situation.

Earlier this week the Department for Education announced that schools had the option of using the 18th December for an INSET day. We have decided to take up this option, with term two finishing on **Thursday 17th December at 3.15pm**. This decision has not been taken lightly and balances the learning for students with the safety of students, alongside the need to reduce possible transmission over the festive period.

As this is an INSET day, there will be no work set for students for Friday 18th December. However, our leadership team will remain on call until the 23rd December to track and trace any positive cases of COVID-19.

This will work in the following way:

- If your child tests positive in this time frame then you should email the school at the following email address covid.reporting@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk
- In your email you should forward the email confirmation of a positive test result and the time, day, and date of the first onset of symptoms of your child. You should also let us know of any social contacts in school, this would include students who your child has travelled to school with, had lunch with, or socialised with at break and lunchtime.
- If your child's symptoms began at any point after the morning of Sunday 20th December, then there is no need to contact the school. This is because the risk of transmission begins 2 days before the onset of symptoms.
- The email account will be checked daily. Once we have read the email, we may contact you by phone to clarify the details. We will then carry out a track and trace using seating plans.
- Our next step is to phone the parents of any affected students and members of staff. We will then ask them to self-isolate for the appropriate period.
- Our final step will be to email a confirmation letter of the request to self-isolate, this will include the length of the self-isolation period.

Clearly this is not something that we want to do, but we may have to in order to help stop the spread of the virus over the festive period.

If your child tests positive between Thursday 24th December and Monday 4th January, you should use the NHS track and trace service. We will not be conducting track and trace during this time. A reminder that students return to school on Tuesday 5th January.

In the next week it is vital that everyone in the school community continues to adhere to our COVID-19 guidance. In school we will be maintaining our stance on masks, hand hygiene, social distancing, and cleaning of contact points.

We will be reminding students of the importance of maintaining our measures to help suppress COVID-19. As ever, if students cannot meet our expectations, such as by staying in their bubbles, then these will be followed up in line with our behaviour policy.

We would appreciate your continued support in emphasising these key messages to your child. The cases we have had in the last fortnight emphasises the need for everyone to follow the guidance. Please remind your son/daughter about the importance of 'hands, face and space', as well as sticking to their bubbles both in school and when travelling to and from Fitzharrys.

We thank you again for your support and wish you a restful Christmas break.

Yours sincerely,



Will Speke
Head of School



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