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A Calfe's Associate School

Monday 24th January 2022

Dear Parent /Carer

Covid Virus at Conisborough College

We hope that you and your family are keeping safe and well. I am writing to update you all on our current Covid Virus situation.

You will by now have received messages from us which have given you immediate information about the situation in school. We have a significant number of Covid cases here amongst the students across all year groups, however, Year 8 have been greatly affected. At the moment we have 91 cases in school and 19 in Year 8. Our figures are continuing to rise daily, and we have seen a particularly steep increase this week. We have picked up a number of cases with our onsite testing this week. The school is under red measures because of a large outbreak and there is heightened risk. If your child is unvaccinated, they are more likely to become a Covid case which means they will have to self-isolate and miss school. This is one of several reasons for vaccinating children.

Year 8

As a result of this the large number of Year 8 cases, the DfE, Local Authority and Public Health have agreed that we can move Year 8s learning to online to further reduce the risk of contracting Covid or passing it on. This means that Year 8 will remain at home for all their lessons and log into Microsoft TEAMS/ Show My Homework, for every subject they follow in the curriculum. All Year 8 students should be ready to log into the Pastoral Period at 8.30am with their form tutor as usual. This will ensure that they know what is going on during the day.

Year 8 will be learning off site for 4 school days, Tuesday 25th January to Friday 28th January, with all Year 8 returning to site as normal on Monday 31st January. When Year 8 return they will all be tested. This decision has not been taken lightly and has been subject to scrutiny as it is a last resort. Year 10 will be following their usual timetable on line and their teachers will be at school teaching using the same online practices as we did last year. Year 8 will need their log in details and must attend all their lessons as usual. The same classroom rules apply around punctuality, no mobile phones and positive engagement in all the lessons.

Students will be notified when a live lesson or form period is taking place simply by accessing their calendar or their Microsoft TEAMS. Students should be logged on to their class in TEAMS ready for their online lesson or form period and will receive an invite to join through TEAMS from their teacher.

All microphones should be switched off. Most of the interaction will be completed through the chat function. The only exception is if the teacher asks the student to speak directly, in which case they will unmute the microphone. The chat function on TEAMS should only be used in a strictly professional way. This is exactly the same as if the student were in school and asking the teacher a question, answering a question or discussing the lesson content. We have been delighted with the engagement and the response of the students in their online learning in the past and hope to see the same positive engagement now.

We thank you for your support and encouragement in motivating your son/daughter to continue with their studies at home. The work they are completing is of the utmost importance to their learning. Can you please ensure your child is aware of the protocol for engagement in live sessions and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

A link to a video showing parent how to access Microsoft TEAMS has been added to the website and instructions have also been attached to this letter.

Year 10

All year 10 students should return to school on Wednesday 26th January at their normal start time. They will be tested during their pastoral time at 8.30. If there are any positive cases, we will contact their parent/ carers to inform them that they will be dismissed from school.

Years 7, 9 and 11

All students in the remaining year groups must attend school as usual unless they are unwell. Please do not send your child in with Covid symptoms and please continue testing at home. We have had a number of positive cases this week and last week where there are symptoms and the child is feeling unwell and when tested have proven to be positive. We also cannot send a child home alone who has tested positive or to travel on public transport. We do ask that a family member comes and collects their child as soon as possible please.

Students on site will follow their usual timetable. We will be continuing with our testing of form groups with 4 or more Covid cases within them. This way we are picking up positive cases quickly. We have at least 2 forms in each year group who are in this category.

Part of our Covid measures is our school uniform and the wearing of the year group lanyard. All students must do this as we must be able to identify the year group a child is in very quickly in order to keep everyone safe. Please make sure that your child has their lanyard worn correctly with their correct school tie when they leave in the morning. The lanyards are also where any exemption cards are worn. Replacement lanyards can be purchased from Student Services for a £1, which you can pay for via ParentPay. All students were provided with these last September 2021.

We have a duty of care to everyone on site. As you know the government have announced that face coverings do not need to be worn in classrooms from Thursday 20th January. However, in light of our situation here we will keep face coverings in the classroom until Wednesday 26th September when Year 10 return. You will appreciate that we still have over 50 cases across the other year groups and as such still need to maintain all our arrangements to prevent the spread of the virus. If we have a positive impact and see a fall in cases and transmission, we will move to face coverings only in communal settings such as corridors and large gathering from Wednesday 26th September.

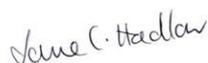
As a school we are seeing an increase in cases. Please continue to test your child at home regularly and especially on Sunday evening or Monday morning before coming to school at the start of the new week.

It is still a statutory requirement to report any positive cases from LFD testing to the NHS website. We report all positive cases. Please continue to contact the school and let us know if your child has tested positive. We re-issued testing kits to all students last week.

I am sure that this is not what you would have wanted to hear at this time. However, with the situation we find ourselves in and the rapid increase in cases and ongoing transmission, we are doing all we can to protect everyone. We will not be allowed to move the whole school to online learning anymore. Schools must stay open and be as safe as possible.

Thank you for your help and support with this as we go through a challenging time for everyone. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if there is anything we can help and support you with.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J. Hadlow
Headteacher

