



De La Salle School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Update

I am writing this letter on Friday morning and very aware that things may well change between my writing the letter and you reading it so apologies if the local situation has changed in that time.

As I informed you yesterday, we have 3 confirmed cases at the school yesterday, all are unconnected and appear to have been through community transmission rather than school. Thanks to the prompt action of the parents and staff members, they all followed the guidance and stayed away from school which, combined with the good fortune of the individuals becoming symptomatic more than 48 hours since being in school, meant that the impact on the other staff and students was minimal.

With that in mind, can I remind all parents and students to be vigilant for symptoms which include at least one of:

- a high temperature;
- a new continuous cough;
- a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Anyone displaying any one of those symptoms should not come into school and should follow the guidance that was sent out last week.

Local Situation/Face coverings

We continue to work closely with the local authority and public health to be ready to respond to any changes in the local situation regarding COVID transmission rates. If a local lockdown was implemented this well may require all staff and students to wear face coverings in school. Though this is not the case at the time of writing, it would be helpful if parents ensured their child had a face covering available.

Current Situation

I am keen to be open and transparent with parents and so I share the information below in the hope you find it useful:

- So far since 1st September, we have had 4 of the school community test positive for COVID19.
- We have approximately 56 students and 8 staff in self-isolation, these are for a variety of reasons: advice from test and trace, family members with symptoms etc.
- Our current attendance is 92% across the whole school.

It is inevitable that we will see more cases within our community of staff, students and families across the next 6 months, many schools have already had to send whole year groups home to isolate for 14 days. So far we have been fortunate enough not have to do this.

You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care.

Parking

Thank you to the many parents who managed to understand my very poor effort of a map and have responded to our requests to park away from the school gates. This has eased the situation though, sadly, we do still have small number of parents who are ignoring our requests.

Students in isolation – school work

We are keen that no students miss out on their education through the need to self-isolate. To assist with this, we are categorising each student who is absent into one of 3 categories:

Category	Provision
Category 1: absent for 1-4 days self-isolating e.g. waiting for family member to be tested	Work set through TEAMS, email or Show My Homework by staff based upon current schemes of work and could include: use of Oak Academy/PiXL resources/GCSE Pod/SENECA learning etc.
Category 2: absent for 4-14 days	English, maths and science to provide live lessons/tutorials. Other departments to provide online work which follows the taught curriculum as closely as possible.
Category 3: a whole class or bubble in self-isolation	Students will follow their normal school timetable and live lessons will be provided in all subjects at some point within that timetabled lesson time. These will generally last 30mins and have time then for students to complete work and have a short break ahead of the next lesson.

It is very important that students have access to TEAMS at home – this can be via phone, tablet, laptop or computer. If this is an issue for any families, then please contact the school.

Students in isolation – Free School Meals

We are working with the local authority to ensure that pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals can receive a delivery of a box of food if they are at home due to:

- Self-isolating (for example their “bubble” is required to isolate)
- Have had symptoms or a positive test result
- Are a close contact of someone who has had COVID-19
- Are not attending school as a result of local lockdown arrangements

We are hopeful to be able to have this in place early next week.

Finally

Again I offer my thanks for your understanding and support throughout this time. It is certainly not how any of us want things to be, but it is important that we make the most of the situation for our students.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Rannard
Headteacher