



The William Henry Smith School

2.11.20

Families

Good afternoon, I do hope this e-mail finds you well and that the October ½ term break has been enjoyable, despite the autumn inclement weather. We are really looking forward to welcoming all students back on Tuesday 3rd November and thank you for your continued support.

I had planned on writing to you to highlight restrictions associated with West Yorkshire moving into tier 3, however as you will be very aware the country moves to a month long lock down commencing Thursday. The Government/DfE are expecting all schools to be open, however we all need to be aware that there are some discussions around students of secondary age receiving fortnightly lessons in schools with an increase in virtual learning. Whilst we have no plans to take this approach (unless directed to do so or as a result of issues related to significant staff absence), it is something we all need to be aware of. We know how quickly guidance (and circumstances) change, and I know you will appreciate that we are not in control of the influencing factors that lead us to make some very difficult decisions from time to time. Be assured, the community's safety is our uppermost concern and priority.

As you are aware, we have been trying really hard to maintain bubbles and this continues to be a challenge we are working through. Please be assured that we will only make changes when absolutely necessary, and after much consideration and risk assessment. Public Health-England strongly advise that we can only minimise risk and we are continually reviewing the effectiveness of our plan to ensure it meets our community's needs and also our responsibility to ensure compliance. We are very lucky that we can operate within very small bubbles compared to other schools, with some neighbouring schools consisting of over 300 students and staff in one bubble.

As we are no longer permitted to travel, unless for education or work, activities will largely be on site. Once again, we are fortunate that our grounds and facilities provide lots of opportunities and I'm certain we will continue to deliver popular activities and use our creativity to provide exciting new experiences too. We will, I am sure, have become used to virtually connecting and 'reaching out' (outreach) for the majority of students will take place using this means.

And finally, a number of families have asked that all communication is relayed through e-mail. We have listened to these requests, so unless you let us know otherwise or we don't have an email address for you, we will be moving to electronic communication for the foreseeable future. Thank you for the feedback.

I would like to thank you again for your continued support and please don't hesitate to contact the school if we can be of any help.

Best wishes,

Sue Ackroyd
Principal

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