



# Leventhorpe

a business and enterprise academy

15 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

You are probably aware that we have seen a number of Covid cases during last week and this week. You are also aware of the tightening of restrictions locally and even though Sawbridgeworth is staying in Tier 2, parts of Essex and Hertfordshire are moving into Tier 3.

There has been a great deal of media coverage around the debate about schools staying open versus moving fully to online learning in the run up to the end of term. Where schools have proactively moved to online learning the response from Government has been to threaten legal action. All of this has meant the end of term is providing a number of operational challenges!

I would like to give parents a summary of where things are for us as a school at present. We have Year 11, 12, and 13 operating with online lessons and students at home until the end of term. There were two positive cases in Year 11, and we needed to cancel mocks, so it seemed prudent to offer online lessons for this year group. We have had three positive cases since the weekend in the sixth form and have taken the decision to move lessons online.

Yesterday we had a positive case in Year 8 and we have had another today. From tomorrow half of the Year group will be having online lessons.

We also have a small number of Year 9 students isolating after a case at the start of December.

As a school we have followed national guidance and advice from health authorities, and this will remain our guiding principle. The school intends to remain open where we can, and face-to-face education will continue up until Friday 18th December for other students. We will of course respond to any further cases this week and make any decisions after discussing issues with health authorities.

During this pandemic we have worked together to navigate the issues and to try to maintain the educational provision for your children. I am thankful of the support and positive engagement of students and parents. Our expectation is that students should be in school unless there is a reason to isolate.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and wish you and your families a restful and relaxing break.

Take care,

Malcolm White