

Aspiration
Respect
Endeavour

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Roding Valley
HIGH SCHOOL

16th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I really hope that everyone in our school community is keeping safe and well. As you will be aware the government has moved Essex into a higher tier of COVID alert and please click [here](#) for the latest government advice on how this impacts on your daily life.

From a school perspective, this does not affect the current operation of the school and all our safety routines and expectations remain the same at this current level. I am proud of how our students have responded within the school and appreciate the restrictions that we are placing on their free movement. That said, we are seeing many benefits of the zoned break times and staggered timings. I also appreciate that the static groups in Key Stage 3 may not always be ideal and we are working to find the balance between continued safety and providing the best-continued education that we can amidst the government guidelines and restrictions. I am grateful that we have excellent attendance and that parents have supported the COVID guidelines and engaged with the testing and self-isolation where needed. This has helped to keep the school safe and operational during this time. Teaching staff have also been superb but I know that they are finding it challenging especially amongst my previously shielded staff and the extra movement they are all having to do around the school site.

Google classroom is now embedded as part of our daily structures and if your child is self-isolating then they can access the class activities via this medium platform. Where teachers have been self-isolating but not symptomatic, they have been remotely teaching their exam classes which has been excellent and well received by the students. If we do have to send home a whole 'bubble' to self-isolate then we will immediately revert to our contingency plan which will include some online lessons, video recorded instructions and ongoing remote assignments. Further details of this can be found in the [letter](#) sent out on 8th October All of which will be subject to staff availability. Students have really engaged with their learning this term and are visibly enjoying being in school. I also just wanted to confirm to parents that Google Classroom is being used to store lesson material for any student self-isolating in any year group. Just to clarify, lesson material for those students who are self-isolating is stored on each subject's Google classroom underneath the heading 'Material'- this will be clear, as there is no 'due date' as it's not a home learning assignment. Only students who are self-isolating will need to complete this lesson 'material' to keep up with their studies. However, home learning assignments must be completed by all students; as they have been set to further understanding from class work. These will be labelled as 'Home Learning' and will have a clear due date. For more information on this please [click here](#). If you need any further help or assistance with Google Classroom, then please contact Ms Larkin- plarkin@rodingvalley.net.

It is vital that students bring face coverings with them and as a school, unfortunately, we cannot afford to continuously replace masks from our curriculum budget where students just do not have them with them. It is now an essential part of the safety plan and I must now insist that ALL students have a face covering with them, they **MUST** be worn in all



communal areas inside the building. After half term, we will have to charge a £1 on parent pay for any masks provided. If you are finding it difficult to provide a face covering for your child each day, then please do contact your Year Progress Leader and we can provide support in this matter. If you are facing any financial hardship at this present time then please do contact us as we can offer assistance with regard to uniform, PPE and other curriculum resources.

There is heightened anxiety in the local community and this will only increase as tighter restrictions are felt across Essex and London. I really do feel for the students as they try to maintain a balance or make sense of the difference between a 'normal' school day and the restrictions that are under once outside of the school gates. I have been asked by both the local police and Sainsbury's to remind parents to speak with their children to remind them of the government rules. Once outside of school they are expected to follow the laws around the 'rule of 6', social distancing, wearing face coverings in shops and on public transport. Unfortunately, we are receiving numerous complaints regarding the conduct of our students on their journeys to and from school and in the local shops. The safety purpose of our staggered finish times is to ensure that we release students in their 'bubbles' to allow them to get straight home without congregating or mixing. My senior team always support the orderly exit from the school grounds, however, due to the staggered finish times which now range from 2:40pm to 4 pm each day, we cannot possibly be outside patrolling the station area for a full 2 hour period. Due to increasing self-isolation, staffing capacity is stretched and my priority must be the quality of education being delivered within the school site. I am asking parents to please support this matter as a priority.

Can I remind parents that school closes for half term on Thursday 22nd October - normal time and will reopen on Tuesday 3rd November - normal time.

Stay safe and well,



Sharon Jenner
Headteacher