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General COVID Update: 23rd October 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we reach the end of the week, I want to update you on additional COVID cases and explain how we will operate over the holidays. I also want to wish all our families well following what has been a unique term for schools in the UK. My thoughts are with the very many families in our communities that have had their lives disrupted by COVID.

COVID Case Update:

We have had a further 3 positive student cases: One in Year 10 where through contact tracing 10 students have had to self-isolate, One in Year 11 where 20 students have had to self-isolate. Both these students have been off school for a while, hence the limited number of close contacts. Today we have had a case in Year 9 reported where 53 students will self-isolate. Most of our students on self-isolation will be able to return to school at the start of term, either Monday 2nd or Tuesday 3rd. All parents of students that are self-isolating have had a letter confirming the date on which self-isolation ends. It is important to note that this date is not necessarily 14 days from the date that the child has been sent home, but rather 14 days from the date of first symptoms of the person with a positive result. I know this has caused some confusion and hope this clarifies why the return date might be less than 14 days away.

Important: emailing school over the holiday

During the holiday students may become unwell with COVID symptoms or have a test or need to self-isolate because a family member has had a positive result. If this is the case, please email: response@fairfield.excalibur.org.uk This email will be monitored by senior staff and will mean that we can continue to contact trace and communicate with families about any self-isolation needed due to positive tests.

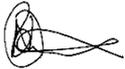
COVID – The Bristol picture

I have attached the latest COVID update produced by Bristol City Council. This suggests the rapid rise in transmission rates across our city is due to transmission via social mixing and family contacts. The relevant paragraph with advice is below. I've highlighted the advice as our students will be spending time with families and may be mixing socially. Please try to keep them distanced and sanitized in line with the national guidelines.

“Transmission appears to be linked to greater informal social mixing and family contacts. This is when we let our guard down and relax. COVID-19 secure environments appear to be effective. So please do spread the word, that mixing in families and in social groups does spread the virus. *Everyone must take care to maintain social distance and social bubbles. Outside is safer than inside, but you must still maintain social distance. Cover your face in indoor public places.*” (BCC Biweekly COVID update)

Finally, I wanted to thank the many parents that have contacted either myself or staff directly to show appreciation for the communication and swiftness of action with self-isolating students. None of this is welcomed by any of us and I am determined that COVID will not diminish our values and community spirit at Fairfield, but rather enhance it.

Best wishes for the holiday break.



Nick Lewis

Principal

An International Academy

Principal: **Mr Nick Lewis**

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