



Bexley Grammar School
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IB World School
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Dear Year 13 Parent/Carer

I wrote to all parents/carers yesterday explaining the context for the multiple cases in year 13. I had hoped that further cases would identify close contacts within the group of students already isolating. However, overnight there have been 4 new confirmed cases in year 13 and although most of them were within the isolating group there were 12 new contacts to isolate. This has left just over a quarter of the year group in school today.

I have therefore, reluctantly, made the decision to send the whole year group home until Monday 14th December. This is for two reasons: 1. To provide a 'circuit breaker' for the transmission in the year group, anticipating that, based on this week, there are likely to be further positive cases identified from those currently isolating. 2. To provide equal-access and continuity of learning for all students and simultaneously manage staff workload. Obviously, learning in the classroom is preferable to virtual learning but trying to manage both at the same time has been challenging.

The majority of isolated students are due back on Monday 14th December or before, which is why I have chosen this date as the date of return for the year group. It would be easy to 'close' the year group for the rest of the term but some students have already had to isolate twice, up to 3-4 weeks and many more have had to isolate for up to 2 weeks. I do not want your children to lose any more time out of school than they absolutely have to. There are, however, **a small number of students who have a letter with a return date after 14th December and these students must remain isolated until the date on their letter.**

The quarter or so of the student body who have not received self-isolation letters are not **required** to self-isolate at home next week but I **strongly recommend** that you do, in the event that any further confirmed cases over the weekend or early next week identify you as a close contact.

I am sorry for this disruption. However, it is reassuring to know that in both the national and international context as IB students, our year 13 students have still had much greater lesson contact than the vast majority of their peers.

Students should check their Google Classrooms and emails at the time of their scheduled lessons, following their timetable (week B). Mr Auckland and Miss Aspill will email all students with additional guidance on Monday.

I will continue to keep the situation under review and will write to you should circumstances change. I look forward to welcoming the whole year group back at full strength on Monday 14th December.

Best wishes to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SE Elphick', written in a cursive style.

Steve Elphick