



LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

126th March 2021

Dear Parent

This week has shown that despite falling numbers nationally, we still need to be on our guard with stopping the spread of Covid-19. We have had a number of cases within Year 11 and Year 7 and some of those have occurred well into the pupil's isolation period. This means that it is vital that pupils stick to the 10 day isolation and remain at home. We have had phone calls asking if those pupils who are isolating just need to isolate from school. Public Health England have asked me to make it very clear that if your child has been asked to self-isolate then this does mean that they stay at home to stop the spread of the virus. Currently the rate of infection is rising in Swindon and this is being driven by the age groups 10-14 and 15-19. They have cited a main reason for this rise as being, children socialising outside of school.

Unfortunately, we have also had three members of staff who have tested positive and one of these works in the kitchen for our catering company. As a result, the kitchen staff have to isolate for 10 days. **The direct consequence of this is that there will be very limited hot food served at school next week for children. This will be for children who receive a Free School Meal only with all other pupils will need to bring their own packed lunch each day. There will be no other food service before school or at breaks.**

It will be great to welcome back the pupils who have been self-isolating and those Year 11 and 7 pupils who were sent home last Wednesday and Thursday can return to school on Monday. We are going to test the pupils in our test centre prior to them returning to lessons and so the timetable for that is:

8:15am Year 11 Surnames A-H

8:30am Year 11 Surnames I-Z

9:00am Year 7

On Tuesday we welcome back the rest of Year 11 who were told to self-isolate last Sunday and the timetable for their testing is:

8:15am Year 11 Surnames A-C

8:30am Year 11 Surnames D-H

8:45am Year 11 Surnames I-N

9:00am Year 11 Surnames P-Z

Please note that if a pupil has been advised by Track and Trace for longer due to a positive test then they must adhere to that date. All other year groups who are self-isolating are not due back until after Easter.



Principal:
Vice Principal:

Mr G. Pearson
Miss S. Hesten

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I am pleased to report that in my discussions with Public Health England and the Health Team at Swindon Borough Council they confirmed that the school has robust systems in place to limit the spread of Covid-19 and have used it's track and trace protocol correctly to send home those who are deemed close contacts.

It was great to be able to have a non-uniform charity day to support Avaya who is a pupil at one of the Trust's primary schools, Orchid Vale. The school raised approximately £800 and I know that people have also contributed on the fund-raising page:

<https://uk.gofundme.com/f/avaya039s-fight-against-neuroblastoma>

I would just like to thank parents for their ongoing support in these difficult times.

Kind regards

Mr Pearson
Principal



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