



4th January 2021

Dear Parents/carers

Coronavirus Update for all Parents/Carers

I'm not often speechless, but tonight I am...The Government has announced tonight that parents are asked to keep their children at home wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open from tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January, only for those children who absolutely need to attend. It is stressed that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children but the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread, infect vulnerable individuals in wider society and overwhelm the NHS.

We are therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

The Government has stated that many parents whose work is critical may still be able to ensure their child is kept at home and that every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. Parents are asked to follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

If you are unable to keep your child at home and believe you fall into a critical worker group and we have already received your Critical Worker application form then we look forward to your child continuing to attend. If for some reason there is any change to your situation, please let us know. For any queries regarding Critical Worker provision, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Brazier on: braziers@chertseyhighschool.co.uk

Mass testing:

We have not received any further guidance regarding the impact of tonight's news on our planned mass testing but will be in touch as soon as we have more clarity on the situation.

We continue to navigate a turbulent and emotional time and I would like to thank everyone for their messages of support and encouragement. Please do contact your normal school contacts if you or your child need our support.

I will carry each member of our CHS family in my thoughts and prayers during this time but please remember my words from earlier today – we are a family... There clearly will be challenging times ahead, but we will get through this together, all will be well.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Z. Munnik
Headteacher

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