

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing today to give you a general update following a period of turbulence caused by the pandemic, and to ask for your support as we move into December.

Cases continue to rise in our local area. Bristol currently has some of the highest rates in the country and in the Academy, we are reflecting this rise, as you know. We would always hope to avoid positive cases in the academy, however, in the current situation in our area it is inevitable that cases will arise. We have well-practiced protocols in the academy to keep staff and students safe and a robust procedure to track and trace cases that transpire amongst our staff and students. All of this is serving to reduce the spread of the virus and, as always, Public Health England advice is being followed rigorously. One positive piece of news is that the lockdown period is starting to have an impact on infection rates, which, although high, are starting to reduce – this is reassuring.

Public Health England have fed back to us with every case we have reported that there is unlikely to have been onward transmission in school and the systems we have in place are effective. This is also reassuring. A reminder that all students (other than those exempt) must wear a face covering in school corridors and communal areas.

We are learning all the time about how to improve our approach to distance learning and live learning sessions. We have learnt a great deal from the feedback from students and families and have continued to refine our approach in supporting students with their distance learning. We have provided laptops and Wifi Dongles wherever possible to families to support with learning at home and have been able to provide work for every student.

Currently we have three year groups learning at home. As you might expect, they will continue to be provided with a full timetable of distance and live learning from their own teachers wherever possible to keep up with their studies in this important year. Staff have been working tirelessly to prepare for online delivery and to support students with their learning remotely. I will contact you again prior to the weekend to detail whether any year groups will need to remain at home next week as our staffing continues to be under pressure from the virus. **I would like Year 7 families to know that their children will be prioritised for time on site next week** and should expect to return to school on 30<sup>th</sup> November, bringing with them a face covering.

We have made sure that students are well fed by providing healthy snacks at breaktime, a hot food or sandwich option at lunchtimes and sending supermarket vouchers for our free school meals students who are isolating at home.

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## Every Student a Graduate – Every Student a Leader

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Our pastoral teams continue to support students who are both in school learning and those isolating at home. We have been checking in with students to make sure they are safe, well and keeping up with their learning. Our reception team have been taking calls and emails from families and reassuring, advising and signposting parents and carers with their queries.

Our cleaning and site teams have been working hard to ensure that spaces are set up appropriately and cleaned throughout the day, with further cleaning between school days as you might expect; I am very thankful to them for their continued efforts.

All round this has been a team effort from all in our community that we should feel rightly proud of as we come together to support our young people to continue their education through the challenges of the pandemic. Thank you for your ongoing support.

I will be hosting a Parent Forum on Thursday 10th December from 6pm-7pm virtually via Zoom. If you wish to join, please visit our website for details of the link and joining information:

<https://cityacademybristol.clf.uk/news/parent-forum-with-the-principal/>

The remaining Parent Forums are scheduled to take place on the following dates throughout the Academic year as follows:

Thursday 28th January 6pm-7pm

Thursday 18th March 6pm-7pm

Thursday 13th May 6pm-7pm

Thursday 01st July 6pm-7pm

If you have any queries, please contact me via the school email address [CABinfo@clf.uk](mailto:CABinfo@clf.uk)

Best wishes



Jon Angell  
Principal, City Academy

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