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Head Teacher
Jonathan Graham

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Dear Parents and Carers,

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

As you are aware the Scottish Government has placed Glasgow and surrounding authorities in Level 4. You will have seen the Director of Education's letter to all parents issued last week.

Eastbank Academy, like all schools, remains fully open and lessons are continuing as they have been this session. All activities have been risk assessed and, as previously mentioned, we have a number of measures in place to minimise the risks associated with COVID19. These include, but are not restricted to:

- A one way system for corridor traffic to reduce opportunities for close face to face contact;
- Hand sanitising gel in every classroom, at entrances and at other key points throughout the building;
- All pupils and staff wear masks in the corridor and other communal areas in the building;
- All senior phase pupils and staff wear masks during lessons;
- A constant circulation of fresh air in classrooms and the wider building.

It is my expectation that these measures, and others, will help keep everyone safe. It should be noted that, while most schools have experienced at least one pupil or staff member testing positive, there is little evidence of the virus spreading in schools.

Now that we've been back at school for nearly fifteen weeks, I thought it would be helpful to provide an update of the procedures that have developed recently.

Pupils self-isolating due to contact in school

When the school is notified of a member of the school community testing positive, I need to initiate Test and Protect procedures. I have mechanisms in place for identifying those pupils and staff who were in close contact with the positive case during the infectious period. These pupils are sent home as soon as possible after they have been identified and this will be preceded by a phone call home. All people identified as close contacts will be provided with a letter from the Director of Public Health, and are asked to self-isolate for a period of 14 days. I also send the details of contacts to Glasgow City Council, who pass these on to Public Health Scotland.

When a pupil is directed to self-isolate, they should continue to complete school work at home. Teaching staff are updating Microsoft Teams on an on-going basis, and pupils should be able to use their iPad to access learning materials and resources. This will ensure they receive their entitlement to an education and do not fall behind. If your child is self-isolating due to COVID, and you are unable to find or access the work on Teams, please contact the appropriate Head of Year or Principal Teacher of Pastoral Care.

Pupils self-isolating due to contact out-with school

Should your child need to self-isolate due to being in close contact with a positive case out-with school, please telephone the school office and inform us of the circumstances and when your child can end their period of isolation. Should there be any change, please keep us informed. In these circumstances pupils can also keep up with school work by accessing the Teams app on their iPad. Pupils should report to the appropriate Year Head as soon as they return from isolation.

Pupils who test positive for COVID19

While we hope everyone stays safe and well, we can't ignore the fact that some people have, and will, catch the virus. Should your child test positive for COVID19, please telephone school and let us know. It would be very helpful if you could tell us:

- When your child started to experience symptoms;
- When your child took the test;
- Where your child took the test.

A screenshot of the confirmation of the positive test would also be helpful. A member of the school leadership team will call you back to discuss these matters with you.

Facemasks

Overall, our young people have done incredibly well adapting to the facemask requirements. I commend and congratulate them for this. You may receive a text message or letter to alert you if your son/daughter has not worn their mask at some point in the day. I do understand that wearing facemasks is not pleasant, and none of us enjoy having to do so. I think we need to accept that this will be part of school life for the foreseeable future. I am very grateful for your on-going support with facemasks this term.

And finally

I believe that all members of the school community have done incredibly well in coping with the difficult circumstances in which we find ourselves. We have now completed nearly four full months at school, and there are fewer than four weeks until the Christmas Holiday. While I understand that there will be a certain degree of worry and anxiety at this time, I strongly encourage you to ensure your child's attendance remains high.

I look forward to us working together in the weeks ahead, and into 2021.

Yours faithfully,



Jonathan Graham
Head Teacher