



20 November 2020

Dear Student, Parent and Carers,

Christmas Holidays

We have taken the decision to move all learning online for the last week of the Autumn term (Monday 14 to Thursday 17 December). The last day of teaching on site for this term will be Friday 11 December. We are doing this in order to allow as many students and staff as possible to stay at home in readiness for a safe Christmas Holiday. We do not want to be in a position of isolating students and staff on 21-24 December because of who they sat next to or came into contact with the week before. By introducing this buffer, no-one will be required to quarantine for Christmas as a result of any close contact with a positive Coronavirus case at BHASVIC.

Students will be expected to follow their timetable joining live lessons on Teams during 14-17 December. The XYZ model does not apply to this remote learning week – all students in a class should attend all timetabled lessons. Very limited onsite provision will be available for students who cannot access any form of online learning at all (this provision will not be available for students who would prefer to access their online learning onsite). Details of how to subscribe to this will be made available to students in due course. Essential activity will occur this week (for example scheduled external BTEC exams) but otherwise students should not attend site. Teachers will communicate directly with students about requirements and expectations in their areas.

We hope you can see the sense in this and support our move to help ensure a safe Christmas.

Quarantining/Self-isolation process

Some of you have asked why is there a delay in notification of the need to quarantine. We are frequently notified about a positive test result a day or two afterwards. Public Health England then require us to establish the days and times the positive student was contagious and onsite.

In many cases, the student who tests positive will have taken a test several days ago, which can then come back positive a few days later. If symptomatic, then symptoms can have started several days before a test was taken. We are required to then track and trace students who had come into contact with someone who tested positive from two days before symptoms or two days before the test was taken if asymptomatic. This means that sometimes, by the time we are quarantining a student, this can be several days or even more than a week into that actual quarantine period. Nonetheless, the quarantine still needs to occur, frustrating though that is.

To stay up to date with the number of reported cases of Covid-19 please visit the [FAQs](#) section of the website.

INSET Day

A reminder that Monday 30 November is an INSET day. At the start of the Academic year we inserted an INSET day into a mid-point of each half-term to allow staff planning time to allow them to continue to respond to the changes to our structure of delivery this year adapting resources, schemes of work and assessment schedules. This is vital time that is allowing us to keep afloat. BHASVIC library will be open for students on this day 9.30am-4.00pm.

We encourage you to also take a look at our dedicated website page for [Parents and Carers](#) where you will find a wealth of information and resources for you and your young person.

With thanks for your continued understanding and support.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Baldwin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William Baldwin
Principal