

02 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Please see below the weekly update

As you are aware we had a positive Covid case with one of our support staff this week which has had a huge impact on staffing. As the member of staff was a cleaner, we were very lucky that the boys had left for home, but unfortunately several staff were working well into the evening and now must isolate.

In addition to this, I am sure you know of other schools that have had 'bubbles burst' and students that have had to be sent home. This situation has caused added strain to Brandles staffing where staff have had to stay off to look after their own children.

As you can see the Covid epidemic has continued to affect us directly and indirectly and it is becoming increasingly challenging to run a safe school when almost a third of our teaching staff are away.

After consultation with the Board of Trustees it was decided that for the wellbeing of the school community, we needed to rotate classes out daily to ensure students were taught by staff they know and could receive the pastoral support they needed. Fortunately, we are close to the end of term, so this won't have too much of an impact on your son's education.

As previously published, please see below the rotation.

Date	Classes
2 July 2021	Red, Yellow
5 July 2021	Silver
6 July 2021	Green, Blue
7 July 2021	Lime, Orange
8 July 2021	Red, Yellow
9 July 2021	Silver
12 July 2021	Green, Blue
13 July 2021	Lime, Orange
14 July 2021	Red, Yellow
15 July	Silver
16 July	Green, Blue
19 th July	Lime, Orange
20 th July	Presentation Day 10am-11am Years 7&8 11:30am – 12:45pm Years 9,10&11

If we have any further absenteeism by staff, further classes may need to close, and you will be notified accordingly.

If you are a key worker or have desperate trouble with childcare, we will support you and have your child in, but they will not be able to follow their normal timetable.

Please note: If our staffing situation improves, we will look to increase student numbers in school. If your son is booked on an external rewards trip on Monday 19th July, he will still be able to attend, even if he is in the Orange or Lime Group.

Covid-Delta Variant

If your child has symptoms:

We know that the Delta variant is presenting with different symptoms. This includes headaches and cold like effects. If your child is showing any of these please:

- Call in to let us know and keep your child at home.
- Seek Covid testing as soon as you can. If negative they can return as soon as possible
- **Do not send your child into school until test results are known.**

This will help to avoid widespread transmission. If a child did come into school with such a symptom and then becomes confirmed as having Covid; that time taken could equate to most of the children and staff having to self-isolate.

The Delta variant is known to spread very quickly, and even though we have bubbles, the taxis do not match our bubbles. It could easily happen and the only way to balance the risk is to react to such a situation as quickly as possible.

Several schools within the local area have seen groups having to self-isolate due to rapid spread of this variant. Therefore, this is also, why I am asking for your support as described above.

New builds Update

The foundations for the new music room have been laid and the build should be up by 9th July.

The new classroom block of two classrooms next to the gym is being manufactured in the factory and should be delivered over the summer holidays.

Parents' Evening

Unfortunately, due to Covid we are not able to run our planned parents' evening on Tuesday 13th July. We have compensated by sending out an extremely detailed whole school report. Our teachers will also make themselves available on the end of the phone between now and the end of term, if you would like to discuss anything with them, or clarify any comments made in the report.

Prizes and Awards Event on Tuesday 20th July

Just as a reminder, we are now holding the event in front of a small group comprising of one bubble in the hall and live streaming the event for students in classrooms in other bubbles, friends, and families. We are hoping to have the faces of the audience watching, shown on a screen so the boys can identify their friends and family and know they are there supporting them.

If you are available, it would be lovely to have you join the live stream and watch some of the presentations.

- The event will take place on Tuesday 20th July.
- The Year 7s and 8s will have theirs between 10am and 11am
- The Year 9, 10 and 11s will have theirs between 11:45am and 12:15am
- The events will mirror each other with the same live music, speeches from the guest speaker etc.
- Our IT technician will send out a link to all of you, so there is no need to RSVP.

Please join if you can as it would be wonderful to have your support. Hopefully a fully live Presentation Day can be held next year.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Pearce', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David J Pearce
Headteacher