



29th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus Update 27

This will, I am relieved to say, be a shorter letter than many of its predecessors. The seven days since I wrote to you last have brought just one new confirmed case. It resulted in a further 35 notices to self-isolate.

The recent case, which was in Year 8, brings our overall total to 31. This breaks down as three in the Sixth Form, four in Year 11, nine in Year 10, four in Year 9, four in Year 8 and seven members of staff. Our total of self-isolators has peaked, if only for the time being. We look forward to seeing it fall still further over the next few days.

In a recent letter I did tell you that we were looking at the benefit of moving to online teaching for the last five days of term. This had the advantage of greatly reducing the chance of cross infection within the school day and so making it very much less likely that students would be either infectious or told to self-isolate over Christmas.

Other schools have also explored this idea and, in a few cases, already announced that this is what they have decided to do. In normal times that would be a decision for their Governors, but currently the Westminster Government has a power to instruct schools how to act in cases such as these. Thanks to this they are able to insist that individual schools teach their students on site for the final week of term – and this is what they have begun to do. If, as now seems probable, we have to have everyone here in the buildings until December 18th I shall fervently hope that the final week will be free of any reported cases.

With good wishes to you and your families,

Natalie Waters