

Dear Parent / Carer

As we approach the end of the first half term, I want to thank you for your continued support and patience over recent weeks. The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for all in our community, but our staff and students have been fantastic and quickly adapted to the new school routines. The current infection rate across Greater Manchester remains high and it is clear that these routines will need to be in place for some time to come.

Rochdale Local Authority currently has one of the highest infection rates in the country and our school community has not been immune from the impact. Since the start of term, there have been between one and five positive cases in each year group and five members of staff have also tested positive. Fortunately, no cases have resulted in any serious health issues. We continue to work closely with Public Health to ensure we have all measures in place to reduce the risk of virus transmission and ask that you continue to ensure that your son / daughter does not attend if they have any COVID-19 symptoms and that they follow the 'Hands, Face & Space' guidance.

The introduction of tier 3 restrictions on Friday will impact on us all and the latest guidance can be found [here](#). A summary of these restrictions is below:

- you must not socialise with anybody you do not live with or have formed a support bubble with, in any indoor setting or in any private garden or at most outdoor hospitality venues and ticketed events
- you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 in an outdoor public space such as a park or beach, the countryside, a public garden or a sports venue
- pubs and bars must close; they can only remain open where they operate as if they were a restaurant, which means serving substantial meals, like a main lunchtime or evening meal, and they may only serve alcohol as part of such a meal
- schools and universities remain open
- places of worship remain open, but household mixing is not permitted
- weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees; however, wedding receptions are not allowed
- exercise classes and organised sport can continue to take place outdoors; these will only be permitted indoors if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with or share a support bubble with; there are exceptions for supervised activities for under-18s, and disability sport
- you should try to avoid travelling outside the very high alert level area you are in or entering a very high alert level area, other than for things like work, education or youth services, to meet caring responsibilities or if you are travelling through as part of a longer journey
- you should avoid staying overnight in another part of the UK if you are resident in a very high alert level area, or avoid staying overnight in a very high alert level area if you are resident elsewhere

I would be grateful if you would continue to report any cases to school over the half term break by emailing admin@clrchs.co.uk. We appreciate that the need to self-isolate can be frustrating but it is a vital element to prevent the transmission of the virus. Our approach to isolate close contacts or whole 'bubbles' is guided by the advice of Public Health. Staff and students have quickly adjusted to remote learning when needed and the feedback so far has been very positive. It is our expectation that the normal curriculum will continue should students need to self-isolate and students should follow their normal timetable unless they are ill.

Staff and students are all looking forward to the half term break which starts on Friday. School will reopen on Monday 2nd November and I will continue to update you as more information becomes available.

Mr A Bridson

Headteacher