

22nd September 2020

Dear parents and carers

Following two more confirmed Covid cases (one in Year 9 and one in Year 13) we have taken the following decisions. Please read these carefully and follow any instructions that apply to you or your child.

- All Year 13 students need to self-isolate on Wednesday 23rd September, until further notice. This is a precautionary measure and we are making the decision whilst we await further information from public health experts; at present, they are not able to keep up with demand and we have not been able to speak to anyone today. We will be back in touch with Year 13 students as soon as possible and hope that many will be able to return to school shortly. In the meantime, all Year 13 lessons will be via Zoom class teachers will post the links on the relevant class team on Microsoft Teams. Students need to log onto Teams in time for the lesson. If your son or daughter is in Year 13 and has been identified as a 'close contact' then they will need to self-isolate for a specified period regardless and you will receive a separate letter about this.
- Year 12 students should come to school as normal, though we are asking them to stay at home if they are at all unwell, even if the symptoms are not the official Covid ones (e.g. a cold). They do not need to get a test unless they are displaying Covid symptoms and can return to school if they are feeling better. Again, this is a precautionary measure pending further advice. Work will be available on Microsoft Teams for these students via their class team.
- A number of Year 9 students have been identified as having come into close contact with the confirmed case during the relevant period and will need to self-isolate for a specified period. You should know if your child is one of these because we will have already contacted you today. However, letters will be sent shortly with confirmation and further details, including of work available via Microsoft Teams. We are working on a plan to provide at least some online teaching for these students, but this will take at least 2–3 days to organise, if indeed it proves to be feasible at all; please bear with us. <u>Students should check Microsoft Teams regularly for updates</u>. If you do not receive a letter this evening and your child is in Year 9, they should come to school as normal tomorrow.
- If your child took the 41 bus to or from school on Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th, Friday 18th or the morning of Monday 21st September then they will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the last time they used the bus. For clarity, this does not include the 41A or 41B services. Please contact StudentServices@lymmhigh.org.uk if this applies to you. Work will be available via Microsoft Teams and we will write separately with details of this once you have contacted us. If this applies to your child, they do not need to seek a Covid test unless they develop symptoms, and it does not affect anyone else in the household unless someone in the household develops Covid symptoms. If in doubt, please do not send your child in to school tomorrow (Wednesday) and contact us via Student Services. It is possible we will be able to narrow this down further and allow some students using the 41 bus to

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return to school sooner, but we are taking a cautious/precautionary approach here while we await further direction from our local health protection team.

Thank you, once again, for your understanding. It is a very difficult, and rapidly evolving, situation to manage and we are facing the same challenges as lots of other schools, both locally and further afield.

As mentioned above, I am doing all I can to get some further expert advice from public health organisations. They may direct us to take further actions and we shall obviously let you know as soon as possible if this is the case.

Kind regards

Gwyn Williams