

19<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Covid-19 update at Goodwin Academy**

Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have been committed to regular and transparent communication with you. In this spirit, I wanted to write to you today to update you on the current situation at Goodwin Academy.

Over the past month our school community has been increasingly impacted by both students and staff needing to self-isolate as a result of COVID-19.

Thankfully, we have been able to effectively manage the situation by following government guidance and working closely with our Trust and Kent County Council. Our risk assessment and our local track & trace procedures have meant that with any positive case, we have been able to swiftly identify any students or staff members who needed to self-isolate. So far, following Public Health England advice we have not had to close a whole year group bubble. However, should the necessity ever arise, I will not hesitate to take this action.

Across Kent, there is a rise in positive cases that is also being reflected in our local Deal community. You may be aware that two of our neighbouring secondary schools have had to close for two weeks due to the effects of the pandemic, notably because each school have had over 25 teachers self-isolating. At Goodwin Academy, we are fortunate that we are not experiencing this level of staff absence.

However, I am aware that some parents are concerned, so I wanted to inform you of the steps that we would take if we reached a point where the school saw a significant rise in (i) the numbers of pupils contracting Covid-19 and/or (ii) staff absence for Covid reasons. As you know, our priority at all times is the safety of students and staff, and we must consider how the level of staff absence would impact upon our responsibility to deliver the highest standard of education.

In working with the relevant bodies, we have been considering any further measures that we would need to take if we were in one of the situations outlined above. This may include limiting the number of students on site at any one time by moving to a rota system. This would apply to all year groups, with students either learning in school or learning from home.

- **Learning in school** – students would continue to attend school following their normal timetable.
- **Learning from home** - students not in school would switch to digital learning. Whilst away from the classroom, students must stay at home and work remotely. Students would log onto Microsoft Teams during their allocated lesson times to receive 'live learning' from their subject teachers. Physical work packs would be available for students without digital access.

This decision would not be made lightly and I want to reassure you that we are working with our Trust, the local authority and Public Health England, ensuring we are going above and beyond to keep every

member of our community safe. You would be informed of any further measures through our usual communication methods, including letter, MyEd App, our website and our social media channels.

When sharing news on any further positives cases, please be aware that we will always prioritise communication with affected students' parents/carers having taken the necessary action following Public Health England advice. Therefore, these updates may reach you by word of mouth/social media before receiving an official update from us.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the 'best endeavour' safety measures currently in place at Goodwin to ensure that your child can continue to access the best teaching and learning at school. By following these steps, we can all help to prevent the spread of the virus and the need for any further measures. Our current safety measures include:

- All students and staff must wear a face covering in communal areas.
- All parents, carers, adults and visitors to our site must wear a face covering.
- Everyone is expected to socially distance on site and students remain in their allocated year group bubble.
- Everyone is expected to keep to the highest hygiene standards using the 'clean, use, clean' protocol – students sanitise their hands on entry to and exit from classrooms and clean workspaces before and after use.
- One-way system around the school buildings.
- Ventilated classrooms/spaces with windows and doors both open.
- 2 metre teacher safe zone in each classroom.
- Designated break and lunch zones (inside and outside) for each year group.
- Regular cleaning of all shared spaces including classrooms, corridors and toilets.
- Track and trace procedures, including seating plans to identify anybody who has come into close contact with anyone that has tested positive for Covid-19.

Our risk assessment shows that we are not at a stage where we need to close at this time. However, I wanted to make you aware of our thinking and planning if we needed to proceed to a rota system.

I am confident in the thorough protective measures in place and we continue to ensure that everyone in our school follows these procedures. If you have any queries please call or email the school office on the address [office@goodwinacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@goodwinacademy.org.uk).

I hope you and your families are keeping safe during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Smith  
**Principal**