

11 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

This week we sent a small group of students home in one year group where there had been limited exposure to an infected student. We also had to send 80 students home from a different year group due to a positive Covid-19 case. In this instance, due to the curriculum structure for that year group, we were able to restrict the numbers that we had to ask to self-isolate. If the infected student had been in Year 9, 10 or 11, where option subjects are taught across the school, it is likely that we would have had to ask an entire year group to isolate. This week we have heard the Weald of Kent (Sevenoaks), Judd, Skinners Kent Academy and Cranbrook have had to send year groups home and Dartford Science and Technology College has closed to all years. There is at last, good news with vaccines in the future, but I fear we may see many more cases and school closures before this time.

If we have to send a year group home, we recognise that attempting to contact in excess of 250 parents by phone to ask for students to be collected is going to be a time-consuming process. Therefore, we have constructed a form on Edulink which we shall send out if we need to inform you of a case and the need to collect your child. The alert on Edulink will come with the message "Urgent response required."

1. You will receive an "Urgent response required" Edulink notification that a form requires authorising (via email address as well as Edulink)
2. In Edulink click the icon named 'forms' and click on the form to open it and respond accordingly.

The form will give two options;

1. That you have received the notification and are coming to collect your child.
2. That you have received the notification and are happy for your child to make their own way home following Covid-19 protocols for social distancing.

If we have not had a response via Edulink within 30 minutes we shall attempt to contact parents by phone. For parents with more than one child at the school, please check which child's account the alert comes through, this will inform you of which child will need to isolate. If parents have more than one child in an affected year group, we would ask that you respond to alerts for all children, it will make the process easier for us to identify the students we need to make phone calls for.

We shall follow up the initial alert with a letter from the Department for Education which contains useful information regarding self-isolation protocols.

I end this by stating that I hope I never have to use this system but that is probably optimistic rather than realistic.

I wish everyone the very best of health.

Kind regards



David Collins  
**Headteacher**