

4th November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

At the time of writing, the Government have still not released details of how the new national restrictions are going to affect schools. Once those details have been released of course I will write to you again, however, I just wanted to clarify a few points as to how things will change at Brymore from tomorrow, 5th November 2020.

Boarders

The Government initially indicated that all boarders would have to remain at boarding school at all times and not be allowed home at weekends. However, they released updated advice yesterday evening stating weekly boarders can go home at weekends. It is my view that as long as parents follow the new national restriction guidelines, then a boy going home at a weekend poses no greater risk than an out-boarder going home each night. Therefore, I am happy that weekly boarders will be able to go home at weekends.

After School Clubs

Again, no information has been provided on whether after school clubs can continue or not and therefore, I have taken the decision that they will continue, as I believe we are able to offer them in a safe way. If I receive updated guidelines to the contrary then I will let you know as soon as possible. We do, however, have to organise Chads differently from now on as we cannot allow boys to run in groups out in the local community. Chads will, however, continue but it will be run almost wholly on school grounds and the boys are being advised of this over the next day or so.

Pick-up and Drop-offs

Thank you for your continued support in remaining in your car when picking up or dropping off your son. If you do need to enter the School Office for any reason, then please ensure you are wearing a face mask at all times. Parents should not be visiting any other part of the school grounds and unfortunately this also means that we cannot allow parents to run Chads until further notice.

Please be aware that boys will be running through the school and up the drive as part of the Chads run. Please therefore, take extra care when picking up your son and please ensure that the boys have priority over car drivers.

Setting Work

If your son is off for a few days self-isolating and awaiting a test result, then boys should continue to do work set on Show my Homework and there is also on-line learning that is provided by the Bridgwater & Taunton College Trust.

Staff will be unable to set individual work due to the sheer number of boys involved and the fact that they are still teaching a full-time timetable. In the event that we have to send a year group home, then we will be providing on-line lessons via Microsoft TEAMS, however, this will not be your son's full timetable and lessons will be shorter because teaching staff also have to continue teaching the rest of the school during the day. In the event that this does happen, a timetable of lessons will be sent home to you.

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A further letter from Mrs Davies will be coming home shortly outlining the steps that you need to take to ensure your son can access Microsoft TEAMS.

As you are aware, as a school we insist on face masks at certain times of the day, which I know is a measure that many schools have not taken. Alongside that we ask the boys to hand sanitise before they enter every room in the school and boys have been good at staying in their bubbles at break and lunch time. I believe it is because of these measures that we have been able to offer practical activities and after school clubs. It is my intention to continue these as long as we feel it is safe to do so and we are not breaching Government guidelines.

Many thanks for your continued support. I wish you and your family well as we head into the next phase of the National lockdown.

Yours faithfully

Mark Thomas
Headteacher
Brymore Academy