



ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY

Principal: Mr Sam Farmer, MA_{CANTAB} PGCE

Wednesday, 07 July 2021

Covid Protocol Update, 19th July - 22nd July

Dear Families,

Following the Secretary of State for Education's statement in the House yesterday, the DfE has published new [operational guidance](#) for schools and trusts to align to the 4th step in the Roadmap to restrictions easing, to begin on 19th July. I have consulted with the staff body, Education Unions and our independent H+S partners, along side our Trust Central Team and members of the LGB, and wanted to provide an update on our position for the last 4 days of the school term.

When we consider the rise in Covid positive cases at RBA and surrounding schools in CBC over the last few weeks, we have taken the decision to continue as we are for the rest of term, with our current Risk Assessment and Family Guidance remaining in operation until the end of the school year – Thursday 22nd July. The students have been tremendous at following our protocols, and for the safety of all, we feel 4 additional days of tighter control will mean everyone can safely arrive at the holidays together. There are no curriculum restrictions in place as a result of these measures, so we see no reason to alter the system that is working to help prevent further spread.

A summary of the last week of term -

- All current year group bubbles /separation systems will remain in place at break time and lunch
- Students will continue to enter and leave via their designated routes
- Students will continue to face forwards in lessons and have an assigned seat
- The one-way system will remain in place around the site
- Social distancing will be paramount at all times and the exclusion zones in each classroom around the teachers' safe space will still be enforced
- Staff will continue to ensure they meet the expectations of effective distancing when teaching / supporting students.
- All staff and students will model high expectations of good hygiene education and management to ensure we meet the new 4 markers of covid safety

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- Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Track and Trace will still be assessed on an individual basis and we will liaise closely with NHS 119 and PHE as required

As to masks. I have received a high volume of emails today from parents concerned about the safety of their children if we remove the requirement to wear masks. To be absolutely clear, the government has done this already, so there is no legal compulsion for families and students to abide by the current policy. We are however requesting to all members of our community, that masks/ coverings remain in place as a proactive approach to end the week safely. This will be ultimately students' own personal preference, but for the sake of 4 days, we would ask families to continue to support us in the approach to wearing masks when indoors. We are requesting this due to the increased Covid case load in RBA/ CBC Schools over the last few weeks.

Students not wearing a mask out of personal choice will **not** need to demonstrate exemption (ie, lanyard or wrist band).

We also learnt yesterday that KS3 children in September will need to complete two Lateral Flow Tests before the start of the Autumn term. We are currently working on the logistics behind this, but have noted the DfE's request for us to consider a further staggered start for secondary school aged students. We would hope to avoid this, but will confirm exact arrangements for Years 7 and 8 before we break up for the summer.

Nothing can quite summarise the last 16 months. We are however extremely grateful to the RBA community for the support and words of encouragement over the course of this pandemic.

Thank you
Sam Farmer, Principal

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