



6 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to my letter on 21 October, I write following the introduction of the second national lockdown which was announced on 31 October.

Guidance from the Department for Education was shared with schools and trusts with respect to the new lockdown on Wednesday evening and I am grateful to our trust colleagues and Headteachers for their quick response to this in order for our schools to be ready for the latest guidance.

Our staff have worked hard to ensure that each school is as safe as possible for all children and staff, and I would like to ask for your continued support when you are in the vicinity of the school premises. Please continue to wear your mask, whatever your personal feelings regarding this, and adopt the social distancing measures that have been in place since the schools returned in September.

We have seen an increase in the number of staff needing to self-isolate this week. We will do all we can to make sure that our schools remain open but it may be necessary to close bubbles or year groups if the number of staff unable to work increases. The DfE guidance on Wednesday evening has specific advice for staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable to work from home and not to attend school for the length of the lockdown. This will have a knock-on effect as to how we function if schools are not fully staffed. We will try to ensure that sufficient notice is given to you if a bubble or year group needs to remain at home.

We have adjusted our plans across the schools in terms of remote learning, ensuring that we follow all requirements set by the Department for Education. Learning from home, when necessary, will include a blend of resources and activities, access to recorded lessons delivered by our staff, interactive platforms (such as Microsoft teams or Google Classroom) and the Oak National Academy (the online national resource). We know that you will understand that the remote educational offer will obviously depend on the circumstances, especially when schools are open to some children and closed to others. Exact details of any closures will be shared with you by your school directly if this should become necessary.

We will continue to provide remote learning activities for those children and students who will not be attending school for an identified period, for instance if they need to self-isolate.

I wish you and your family well as the country begins this new period of lockdown.

Yours sincerely

Jon Chaloner
CEO, GLF Schools