



**Belmont
School**

Dear Parent/Carer,

In recent weeks there has been an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in Lancashire, including a large number of outbreaks reported in schools. Currently there are 374, 000 pupils in England who are being educated at home. As many of you are aware, this wave of infections has been driven by the Delta variant.

Following recent positive test results in school, guidance was followed from Public Health England and we closed the school. The department of Infection Prevention & Control Support Team (IP&CT) recognised the efforts we have taken as a school to operate throughout the pandemic. The recommendation however, from the IP&CT is to revert to Bubble A and Bubble B for the next three weeks until the end of the academic year. The IP&CT believe that if we continued to operate on a whole school timetable, then further positive test results are inevitable, leading to further disruption and whole school closures. From Monday 5th July, pupils in **Bubble A** will attend school each week on a Monday and Tuesday, whilst pupils in **Bubble B** will attend school on a Wednesday and Thursday. Pupils who attend alternative provision will continue to do so. When pupils are not attending school, the expectation is that they attend all online lessons. Pupils who do not attend online lessons will receive an absent mark. For households that have contacted school for work packs they must ensure that any work completed is returned to school so that a working from home mark can be awarded.

To prevent the spread of the Delta variant a zero-tolerance approach must be taken against pupils who abscond from the school premises. The threat of pupils going into the community and taking the virus back into school is a major concern and a threat to the whole school. As a result, any pupil who leaves the school site will immediately be sent home. The same action will be taken against pupils who spit and those that may leave their lessons or allocated reflection/wellbeing hub to mix with other year groups.

To protect against the spread of the virus the school will continue to:

- Take staff and pupil temperatures on arrival.
- Promote social distancing at all times.
- Hand sanitiser is available throughout the school.
- Face masks are available, and their use promoted.
- Lateral flow tests are available each day.

 Belmont Secondary School, Haslingden Road, Rawtenstall, Lancashire BB4 6RX

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Can we remind you that pupils must not be sent into school if anyone in their household develops one or more of the three classic Covid-19 symptoms which are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. Please advise school immediately if anyone in their household develops symptoms and or tests positive, to enable us to identify close contacts and help prevent potential spreading.

Currently only a small number of pupils are taking part in lateral flow testing. Lateral flow tests are available each day in school. The use of the lateral flow kits is important in helping to quickly identify any positive cases, reducing the risk of contamination.

We have a large supply of home testing kits which are available for your child to take home. Please get in contact with the school, so we can make arrangements for them to be sent home.

Yours sincerely

Mr Pegrum
Head of School

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