

17 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Re: COVID-19 cases at Birmingham Ormiston Academy

I am writing to inform you that we currently have 4 active cases of COVID-19 at Birmingham Ormiston Academy (BOA) as 4 students have received confirmation of positive test results. At the point of writing, there does not appear to be a connection between the cases. Using our own track and trace procedures, we have identified small groups of students who may have been in close contact with the confirmed cases and have asked them to self-isolate as a precautionary measure. As always, we will set work over Microsoft 365 for these students.

#### Informing the Academy:

I am sending a polite reminder to ask all parents and carers to notify the Academy as soon as possible if your child receives confirmation of a positive test result. This will help us to notify any students who may have been in close contact with confirmed cases. As well as making contact through attendance (0121 359 9309), you can also phone 0121 359 9346. If you receive confirmation over the weekend or in the evening (out of hours), please email [info@boa-academy.co.uk](mailto:info@boa-academy.co.uk)

#### Staff Absence:

To date – and at risk of tempting fate – we have not had any confirmed cases of COVID-19 among members of staff at BOA. That said, we do have a small number of staff absences at the moment. Firstly, there are staff members who are extremely critically vulnerable who have been instructed to shield by the NHS. We also have members of staff who have been asked to isolate through NHS Track and Trace due to potential close contact with confirmed cases of COVID-19. These members of staff are currently working from home and contact their classes during lessons, via video conferencing (and all classes have a cover teacher assigned to them). I will notify you if staff absences increase to a level that requires us to rearrange the timetable. For now, thank you for your understanding and support.

#### Attendance Marks:

Please be aware that attendance figures are not affected by absences when a student has been instructed to remain at home due to COVID-19. We have recently published attendance figures for last half-term (on settling-in reports and/or grade cards). We are due to write to all parents with a clear breakdown of attendance marks and tutors will speak to their tutees regarding any absence concerns. Once you have received the letter, and if you have any questions, please contact BOA. At this point in the academic year, please be aware that short periods of absence can affect the overall attendance percentage. Regular and sustained attendance will ensure that attendance percentages improve over time.

As I bring this letter to a close, I look forward to writing to you at the end of the week with the usual 'success stories', including the students in years 11 and 13 who are the recipients of a 'recognition of excellence' card.

Yours truly,



**Alistair Chattaway**  
Principal

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