Our Ref: JPR/KWI/Y10

13th July 2021

Closure of Year 10 Bubble

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 10 students

You will be aware of the increasing number of positive cases of Covid-19 which have been appearing among our Year 10 students and the disruption that these have caused to students.

Although we have followed the government guidance in tracking close contacts and advising students to self isolate we have now reached an unfortunate position where the vast majority of the Year 10 bubble is now required to self-isolate. Our options are:

- to ask the Year 10 bubble to work from home, allowing us to offer a full remote learning programme which includes video lessons/voice over powerpoints for all; or
- to teach a limited number of students in school while offering a basic remote learning programme to the majority of students.

We feel that it is right and fair that we ask Year 10 students to remain at home and offer a full remote learning programme for all students. While it is likely that this will be required until the end of the academic year, should we be in the position where a majority of students are able to return to in-person lessons we will revisit this decision and notify you of any changes.

I can assure you that this decision has not been taken lightly; we are this will undoubtedly prove difficult for some families, but we feel it is the best course of action for both the safety and education of our students.

Where students are required to isolate as a result of close contact they must continue to do so until the end of the day given on the self-isolation letter.

Should there be any further cases which require us to go back and track and trace student contacts we will do so and notify you, although in taking the decision to ask Year 10 students to work from home we hope to minimise the possibility of this being necessary.

Our staff will remain in school teaching their usual lessons, which for Year 10 students will be over Teams. At present we have no plans to close the school to any other year group and so any siblings in other year groups should continue to attend.

Should Year 10 students require pastoral support they should contact their tutor or head of year by e-mail, or they may call the school to speak to the pastoral team. If any student is unable to access Teams, or does not have the equipment available to do so, please do contact us by e-mail to <u>support@bishopperowne.co.uk</u> or by telephone to 01905 746 800.

I will be in contact about the start of the next academic year in due course, which will include details of an in-school testing programme likely to begin on the 2nd and 3rd of September.

My sincerest apologies for having to take this unwanted but necessary action at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Price Headteacher

