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15th December 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Re. Tier 3 Restrictions (15th December 2020)

Yesterday, the government announced that the Borough of Broxbourne, including Hoddesdon, will be going into tier 3 restrictions (very high alert), with effect from midnight tonight.

There has been a significant rise in cases in the borough which continues to have the highest levels in the county – as of Wednesday, 9th December 2020 there were 391 cases per 100,000 (a 60% increase from the previous week), well above the national average of 144 per 100,000. The numbers are especially high amongst secondary school age children.

I have attached a poster that gives details of Tier 3 restrictions for your reference but in terms of the school's operations, this change does not affect our plans to complete the term at 15:00 on Thursday, 17th December 2020 and return on Monday, 4th January 2021.

For young people, the most significant restrictions in Tier 3 will be the following:

- *you must not meet socially indoors or in most outdoor places with anybody you do not live with, or who is not in your support bubble, this includes in any private garden or at most outdoor venues*
- *you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 in some other outdoor public spaces, including parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, a public garden, grounds of a heritage site or castle, or a sports facility – this is called the 'rule of 6'*

We, like all schools locally, have seen a sharp spike in positive cases over the last couple of weeks which I have kept you informed of on a daily basis. It is very sad that this situation is having such a devastating impact on the number of pupils on site during a week that would normally be filled with such joy and excitement. I would like to remind you that unless a pupil is ill or has been asked to self-isolate, we cannot authorise absences.

I would like to thank you all for your understanding and support and the staff for their professionalism and forbearance at this very challenging time.

Best wishes

Mr Jeremy Scott
Headteacher