

Truro School COVID Steering Group Bulletin No.10 (20 Nov 2020)

Truro School has had another strong and purposeful week. Education has, as ever, been at the fore, and especially as our enhanced Covid-safe measures in place since half term have become routine. My thanks go, once again, to pupils, staff, and families for your part in this success. We have had a week without notification of any new Covid cases and hence no recourse to our Track, Trace or isolation procedures, although we do, of course, keep matters under continual review.

Covid Steering Group Updates from Week 9 (16-20 November):

1. **Hygiene.** Please, as always, keep reinforcing the need for regular and thorough hand washing.
2. **Promoting social distancing at school departure times.** In response to feedback and in order to further support safety, we give the following advice regarding the end of the Senior school day. It is voluntary as we recognise that family timings, sibling routes and more besides vary considerably, but where it can be adopted, we think it may help reduce pavement congestion. We suggest 1st & 2nd Years consider exiting down the snake path, that 3rd and 4th Years consider leaving via the Poltisco path, and that the 5th & 6th Forms try to split their exit routes across all available when they can. Staff will not insist on or enforce this, as it needs to be a choice based on individual routes home, but we think a community effort may have some benefit.
3. **Library Books.** We are pleased to have found a Covid-safe system for permitting pupils to choose books once again. This will be explained to pupils next week.
4. **The Cookery School.** We are also pleased to have approved a Covid-safe way to open the Café for a click and collect service from Monday 23 November. Parents will be able to pre-order from the café using a QR code they can scan from their phone and will collect away from the pupils. The Café have also extended their opening times by introducing a new slot from 3.45 to 4.05 for pupils to buy a snack before a club or before going home, so long as social distancing is maintained. Further information can be found in the school's full weekly bulletin.
5. **Track and Trace.** We continue to be grateful for the Covid-related information about family contexts being shared using our CSG@truroschool.com email address. Thank you.
6. **Behaviour.** We remain very pleased with the excellent behaviour of the vast majority of pupils across our community. This includes behaviour we have sought to tackle in some communal toilet areas. By way of reassurance in areas where pupils have noticed security cameras, these are either non-operational deterrents, or, where they are operational, they view only the communal space (not cubicles or urinals), and are not used for surveillance. Their footage would only ever be accessed when there is a need to view a specific time period during which we have good reason to believe vandalism or other antisocial behaviour may have taken place. In that circumstance the footage would be viewed under strict safeguarding protocols including the presence of more than one appropriate member of staff. The absence of any need for this to have happened since half term, we consider to be a success.

7. **Self-isolation.** Please can I remind all families that where any member of your household is awaiting a Covid test result, the whole household should be in isolation until the result is clear, irrespective of how they feel. In practice this means that siblings of a child who is awaiting a test result because they have had any type of symptoms should not be attending school until a negative result is reached. If the result is positive, the whole household clearly remains in isolation for the NHS advised duration which currently remains at 14 days for close contacts and 10 days for the confirmed positive case.
8. **Public Examinations 2021.** As outlined last week, parents of pupils in the 5th and Upper Sixth Years will be aware that GCSE and A Level examination in Wales were recently cancelled. This is not the case in England at this time. Please reassure your children that the best thing they can do is to continue to prepare for examinations, managing what they are in control of, which is, fundamentally, their approach to study. For the 5th Years that means a focus on this term's Mocks. For the Upper Sixth that means January Mocks. Outcomes in these exams are important for all the normal reasons – as opportunities to gain feedback on progress/strengths/weaknesses. The marks/grades may be used as part of any future contingency should summer exams be threatened, but that will not be in isolation and without wider academic data. As indicated last week, the school is actively planning for follow up assessments at the end of the Spring Term or at the start of the Summer. The nature and timing of these will be finalised once the government and Ofqual have given their guidance over summer exam planning and contingencies, which we expect before Christmas. In the meantime, please do keep reassuring your children that we are here to teach, advise and support them, and that they should focus on what they can influence in the knowledge that we will support them in response to anything that changes.

Looking ahead:

I am intending to include some information next week about how we will ensure Truro School is a festive community as Christmas approaches, alongside remaining Covid-safe. There has been much planning already in this regard, and it is time to start to turn that into some excitement and anticipation. In the meantime, I wish you all a very good weekend and week ahead.

Mr A Johnson